



SYMBOLS  
OF THE  
STATE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES





# SYMBOLS OF THE STATE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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FERDINAND E. MARCOS  
*President*  
*Republic of the Philippines*

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## FOREWORD

*More than just conceits of an organized state, the official seals and flags, and indeed the flowers adopted by the national or local government, have a far deeper meaning that often elude people. More often than not, such symbols have roots in history or tradition, evolving through time by reason of changing events and circumstances until at last they are finally shaped into what they are today, emblems of a people's passage through life and evocative of their aspirations, hopes and estimate of themselves and their place in the world. Foremost among these symbols, of course, is the national flag, which is equated with the freedom and sovereignty of a nation. Under the national flag are the flags of provinces or cities, all national pride and the uniqueness of a race or people.*

*The Philippines takes pride in its own symbols, not the least because these have been created out of their past and bear the stamp of the creativeness of the Filipino himself. I view our heraldry as part of the fabric of our history and tokens of our determination to endure as a race and nation.*

*It is gratifying therefore that this book, Symbols of the State, has been published, for it is a documentation of Philippine nationhood, the beginnings, the strivings, the goals envisioned, the effort exerted to assert our place in the sun as one people, one nation. Into these symbols may be read the story of our people, the triumphs and defeats, the indomitable spirit which has seen us safely through the storms of a changing world.*

*Congratulations are in order for the dedicated people responsible for this work, and it is my hope that Filipinos will value this book as they value their heritage.*

A stylized, handwritten signature of Ferdinand E. Marcos, written in dark ink, is positioned above the printed name.

FERDINAND E. MARCOS

*President*

*Republic of the Philippines*

## INTRODUCTION

Local Governments in the Philippines have been given the responsibility under Section 2102 of the Revised Administrative Code of the Philippines as well as other local laws to design the Coat of Arms of their respective local government units. The philosophy behind this responsibility in addition to the heraldic values of the Coat of Arms is to give the seal of officialdom in local governments.

Never before has there been a completed and extensive compilation of official seals of cities and provinces with their meanings. The completion of such a compilation as well as its importance in giving meaning and purpose to local administration need not be over emphasized. I am happy therefore, to present to all our local government officials this book entitled "SYMBOLS OF THE STATE: COAT OF ARMS OF THE PHILIPPINES" which include not only the Coat of Arms of the local governments in this country, but likewise their histories and official banners and flowers.

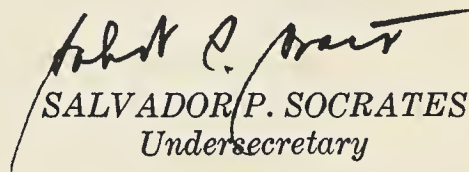
With this book which the department has completed through the Bureau of Local Government, local officials will find deeper meaning in the use and interpretation of their official symbols. I urge all local officials therefore, to properly use the official seals of their respective local units in accordance with the Heraldic guidelines set by the Office of the President.



JOSE A. ROÑO  
*Secretary*

## PREFACE

*The increasing interest shown by the National Government in the improvement of local governments in the Philippines has found expression in a lot of programs and projects which have never been tried before. One neglected area of local administration is a study of the official seals of local government units and their heraldic characteristics, as symbols of authority. Attempts were made in the past to compile the Coat of Arms of local units in the Philippines but for one reason or another nothing had come of previous efforts. The DLGCD through the Bureau of Local Government, is very proud to present to our local officials, this compilation of the official seals of cities and provinces, including their meanings. We hope that this book will find meaning in your respective localities as you perform your duties and responsibilities as local officials.*

  
SALVADOR P. SOCRATES  
Undersecretary



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Bureau of Local Government provides a wide range of assistance and services to local governments. All its efforts are geared to one ultimate objective which is the continuing improvement of local administration in all its perspective. This pioneering project has been contemplated for a length of time singly aiming to compile the official seals of cities and provinces in the Philippines.

In the completion of this project the Bureau of Local Government acknowledges with gratitude the full assistance of the following:

Chairman Esteban A. de Ocampo, as well as his able assistant Mrs. Flordez K. Militante, both of the National Historical Commission who prepared the histories of cities and provinces in the country;

Dr. Galo B. Ocampo, Technical Adviser on Heraldry, Office of the President, who has provided us the technical guidance in the completion of the whole project;

Director Gregorio S. Cendaña of the National Media Production Center for making available the expertise of his staff;

The Research and Publications Division of the National Historical Commission for their researches of the histories of cities and provinces;

The local government officials who furnished the seals of their respective cities and provinces and the interpretation of these seals as well as the DLGCD field officers who have spared part of their time in making this project possible.

The many others who worked in anonymity.

  
GAUDIOSO C. SOSMENA, JR.  
*Acting Director*



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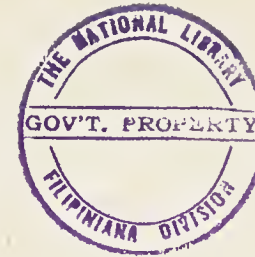
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## SYMBOLS OF THE NATION

BY GALO B. OCAMPO  
*Technical Adviser on Heraldry*  
*Office of the President of the Philippines*  
*Malacañang*



**T**HE Coat of Arms of a country is the political symbol of the State. It is emblematic of the form of government and illustrative of the political ideology of the people.

Thus, the various coats of arms used in the Philippines summarize our historical development and indicate the political changes in our country since the 16th century. The first coat of arms was that of the City of Manila bestowed by the Royal Court Grant of King Philip II on March 20, 1596; the second, that of the erstwhile Philippine Republic, known as Aguinaldo's seal used in his manifestos since October 31, 1896; the third, that adopted by the Philippine Commission in 1905; the fourth, that of the Commonwealth government approve on November 6, 1935, and the last, is that of the Republic which was approved by the Congress of the Philippines and by President Manuel Roxas on July 3, 1946.

Among the heraldic blazons common to our various coats of arms are the eight-rayed Philippine sun, and the three stars of the Philippine National Flag. The eight rays of the Philippine Sun represent the eight provinces of Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Morong, Laguna, Batangas, and Cavite which were declared under Martial Law by a decree of the Spanish government during the revolution of 1896. The three five-pointed stars indicate the solidarity of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The Sun and Three Stars are one and inseparable. They are the distinctive and exclusive emblem of the Philippines as sanctioned by the Constitution, the Flag Law and Executive Order No. 23, series of 1936. The Special Committee on the Coat of Arms created by the late President Manuel L. Quezon on December 15, 1938, under the chairmanship

of the late Hon. Teodoro Kalaw, Director of the National Library and Museum, to study and recommend certain modifications needed in the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of the Philippines recognized the importance of the Sun and Three Stars and recommended that they occupy an important place in our coat of arms. The recommendations submitted by this Committee were used as the basic pattern for the coat of arms of the Republic.

As a symbol of the state, the coats of arms of the Republic represents three historical phases—Philippines, Spanish and American.

The Philippine symbols are the three mullets (five-pointed stars) on the chief argent (upper part of the escutcheon proper in white), the eight rayed Philippine sun or (gold) "in rayonnant" (in splendor straight rays) on the heraldic point of honor, argent (center of the escutcheon proper in white). The National Colors are preserved in the tinctures such as white (chief and heraldic points of honor are in argent), red and blue (in the paleways of two pieces gules and azure respectively on the sinister and dexter



fields of the excutcheon).

The Spanish symbol is the Lion Rampant on the dexter base (right side), taken from the Royal Spanish Flag, the quartered flag of Castile and Aragon. This is the national ensign of Spain used by Legaspi in the actual occupation and colonization of the islands in latter part of the 16th century as differentiated from the Pendon de Castilla or the Royal Standard, the flag brought by Magellan in 1521. During the Philippine Commission and Commonwealth eras the coat of arms of the City of Manila occupied



the point of honor in our coat of arms. This was a mistake. The Coat of arms of the City of Manila showing the castle and sea lion was bestowed by King Philip II expressly for the "Ever Loyal and Noble City of Manila" in the first Royal Decree assigning a device for flags, banners, shields and seals for the said City, given at Aranjuez on the 20th day of March, 1596. Another error is the fact that a Spanish symbol occupied the heraldic point of honor, which should have been reserved for a Philippine symbol.

The American symbol is the American bald-headed eagle displayed on the sinister base (left-side), looking towards the dexter side which is the peace side or the olive side. On the dexter claw is an olive branch with eight leaves and eight fruits on vert (green) and gules (red) respectively. On sinister claw are three spears in alert in peace or in war.

Below the escutcheon proper is a scroll with the inscription "Republic of the Philippines."

The coat of arms of the Republic was the beginning of a heraldic tradition in the Philippines where before there was none. What followed thereafter is the implementation of Executive Order No. 310 s. 1940, issued by President Manuel L. Quezon creating the Philippine Heraldry Committee to make studies and recommend the adoption of coat of arms for the different government offices, semi-government corporations, provinces and chartered cities. This function of the Committee was later expanded to cover the design of medals decorations, insignia and flags.

The use of armorial bearings by civic authorities is traceable to the practise of authenticating documents by means of administrative or corporated seals bearing distinctive and symbolic devices during the latter part of the 12th century.

The seal had a practical purpose as well as an artistic value: it rendered forgery of the seal difficult.

In this respect civil insignia differed from personal heraldry. The device adopted by a knight for display on his shield, surcoat and banner served the purpose of enabling him to be identified in the field of tournament. The arms used are of a more personal and family blazonry. The coat of arms must be clearly recognizable at a distance so as to identify the Knight who was covered from head to foot with his helmet and armor.

The symbology of the arms in our civil heraldry really started with the coat of arms of the City of Manila when Philip II granted the arms composed of the Castillian Castle to represent Spain and the Sealion to represent Filipinas Ultramar. Hence the sealion has attained the status and symbolism representing the Philippines and NOT Spain as erroneously and often misinterpreted. The *raison d'être* here is that the Lion Rampant found in the quartered arms

and flag of Spain is on *land*. The Philippine archipelago or Islas Filipinas, being surrounded by water needed a relevant symbol apropos to its geographical location hence the heraldic device of a *sea-lion*. In heraldic glossary, a sealion or lion-poisson is a heraldic arms the upper part of which looks like a lion and the hinder part ending in a tail like a fish with webbed feet.

The lion is one of the most favored emblem in heraldry, specially English heraldry. Since the reign of Richard I the Royal Arms of England has been: Red, three gold lions passant guardant; i.e. on three legs, the right forepaw raised, the head turned so as to present the full face. A lion in this posture was termed as a lion leopard or leopard.

Richard's brother, John, also had two lions passant which according to some heralds were actually used by the father, Henry II. Earlier Norman Kings including William the Conqueror had lions in their arms. This royal heraldic tradition has been carried down to the present with the lion being used as a charge or as a supporter.

The meaning and symbolism of its heraldic representation also changes in accordance with its tincture (colors) or position.

The heraldic lion of Scotland differs from the lion of England in tinctures—the former is red while the later is golden.

It was the Philippine Revolution against Spain that introduced a new sets of symbols—the most significant of which are the Sun and Three Stars in our National Flag.

The sun is a universal symbol—a symbol of veneration by the ancient man who regarded it as the beneficent sovereign of mankind—the earliest form of religious worship. The Egyptians, Mexicans, and Japanese were the greatest sun worshippers in history. The study of the sun by the Babylonians produced the calendar and aided in the development of mathematics. The sun-god Ra, is a popular deity of Egypt while its pyramids are oriented by astronomical calculations.

In the 14th Century BC, Akhenation established a religion around the sun-god Aton. The Greeks believe the sun-god employed a chariot in his diurnal journey for his use in the western sea where the sun sunk each evening. Sacrifices were made as a means of propitiation by the Kings of Judah, the Spartans, Persians and the Mayans of Mexico.

The Incas of Peru built towering Sun Temples in their major cities specially Cuzco. Sapa Inca the Sun King of Peru—had greater powers than the Sun King of France—Louis XIV who proclaimed that: "L'état c'est moi". Sapa Inca claimed everything under the sun: he was divine, descended by direct line from the



Sun, the creator—god; everything—the land, the earth, the people, gold (sweat of the sun), silver (tears of the moon)—all these belonged to him.

The universal acceptance of the Sun as a symbol of the aspirations, ideals and myths of all peoples is probably reflected in the fact that a survey of the flags of nations shows that Argentina, Nationalist China, Iraq, Japan, Nepal, Niger Republic, the Philippines and Uruguay have the heraldic sun (with eyes, nose, mouth) or plain sun, occupying the canton of their flags in varying degrees of derivative designs. Similarly the stars are featured in the design of the flags of 39 nations.

The Philippine is the only country that incorporate the sun and stars in its flag. Muslim countries feature the crescent (moon) and the stars such as Algeria, Lybia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Turkey while the Moldive Islands depict only the crescent.

Originally the Philippine Sun appears in its heraldic interpretation—the biblical sun with eyes, nose and mouth in some of the revolutionary seals and flags. The design of the Philippine National Flag at present can be traced to Executive Order No. 23 dated March 23, 1936 which specify the design of the National Colors with 8 rayed Philippine Sun without the eyes, nose and mouth of the biblical sun.

The sea-lion, the sun and stars invariably appear in the arms of government offices, provinces and cities.

President Manuel L. Quezon, in issuing Executive Order No. 310 s. 1940 creating the Philippine Heraldry Committee to make studies and recommend ways and means for the adoption of coat of arms of the different political subdivisions and semi-governmental institutions, set the pattern of symbols to be used reflecting physical or geographical considerations, significant emblazonry, allegorical ideas, political social or economic emblems as well as supporting documents, orders or grants.

To ensure that the coat of arms of the Republic is a manifestation of the ideas and ideals of the offices or the people concerned, the Philippine Heraldry Committee from the year of its reconstitution on January 7, 1946 to June 30, 1973 encouraged all concerned to submit the designs of their coat of arms limiting the work of the Heraldry Committee to putting in correct heraldic phraseology the designs submitted for an office, province or city.

The Heraldry Committee through the Technical Staff headed by the author prepares the final design with the heraldic description for the approval of the President of the Philippines.

By coursing through the Office of the President the approval

of all the Republic coat of arms, the duplication of particular symbols is avoided by the various offices, provinces or cities. Moreover since most of these coats of arms are used for administrative or corporate seals to authenticate public documents there is need for their registration and approval by the President of the Philippines.

Heraldry is the language and science of art and symbols. Through heraldry the history and/or geneology of a nation or family is traced, visualized and recorded.

In the beginning the “pictorial” suggestions of some provinces and cities have to be modified to conform to basic heraldic rules and regulations. We have to motivate through concepts such emblems which by reason of relationship, association or convention are visible signs of the invisible, the abstract if not the ordinary objects and scenery that we see everyday.

Likewise we have to indoctrinate to all concerned the mechanics of heraldry principally the division of the shield or escutcheon such as the 1. Dexter side (right); 2. Sinister side (left); 3. The Chief (top); 4. The base. The positions of charges are: 5. Dexter Chief; 6. Sinister Chief; 7. Middle Chief; 8. Dexter base; 9. Sinister base; 10. Middle base; 11. Honor point; 12. Fesse point; and 13. Nombril point.

For purposes of protocol design of a coat of arms must adhere structurally to the points enumerated above.

The crest from the latin words *crēsta*, (the tuft or comb which grows upon the heads of birds) was placed on top of the helmet of chieftains so their followers may readily distinguish them in battle. The crest is placed on top of the shield. The French herald call the crest the *cimier*. Another name for the crest is—cognizance from the latin word *congroscō*—to know, since by it the leader is recognized. For a crest, Alexander the Great used a ram’s head while Julius Caesar was known by a star.

The seals of the Republic are the seals of the office—not the man occupying the office hence the text “Official Seal” on the circular border of the seal—with the exception of one—the seal of the President of the Philippines which is officially the “Personal Seal of the President” so that no other office or official may use it.

The Personal Seal of the President is a red triangle (emblem of the revolution against Spain) with three golden stars on the three corners of the triangle Superimposed at center is the sea lion. The background of the triangle is the Philippine Sun. Forming a circular border are stars representing all the provinces of the Philippines.

As an extension of the personality of the President, the seal



of the Executive Secretary feature one element of the Presidential Seal—the Sealion engarde, to indicate the Executive Secretary's executive powers in implementing the Presidential policies and program of government.

Most of the seals of the various Departments under the Executive Branch of the government feature symbols pertinent to and symbolical to the functions of the Departments.

Two Departments—the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Defense have for their seals the Coat of Arms of the Republic of the Philippines. This is because the nature of their functions and ritual or protocol in official functions here or abroad identify them as foreign affairs personnel or armed forces personnel of the Republic of the Philippines and not merely of their respective Departments.

The seals of our provinces and chartered cities feature symbols covered by Executive Order No. 310. They are either visual abstract or natural emblems representing the characteristic or regional aspects of their geography, tourist or historical landmarks, agricultural, economic and ethnological pertinent to each province or city.

A few of the cities feature genuine heraldic grants of the Royal Crown of Spain like the City of Manila, Lipa and Naga. Some *first families* of the country have their own family coat of arms geneologically traceable to the Spanish gentry whose coat of arms were granted to these families by the ruling Spanish monarch of the period.

By and large the Philippine heraldic tradition created by the Philippine Heraldry Committee from 1946 to the present is a good start for other heraldic experts to perfect in the future.

Certainly the Heraldry Committee tried its best to avoid the pictorial coats of arms which some countries introduced in their seals. This is understandable specially in the Philippines where heraldry is practically unknown.

It was a dedicated group which President Sergio Osmeña appointed on January 7, 1946. All the members served without any compensation including the author who served as Member, Secretary, Chairman and now as Technical Adviser on Heraldry in the Office of the President of the Philippines.

Dr. Jose P. Bantug served as the first Chairman of the Committee. The members were Dr. Gilbert A. Perez, Dr. Leandro Fernandez, Director Pablo Lucas, Director Luis Montilla and the

then Captain Galo B. Ocampo who also served as the Secretary and Heraldic Expert of the Committee.

Dr. Gilbert A. Perez took over the Secretaryship of the Committee in an acting capacity when the author left for the United States in 1947 to assume his duties as Technical Assistant to Ambassador to the United Nations General Carlos P. Romulo.

It is a wonder how the Heraldry Committee was able to establish and create all the coat of arms, medals and decoration, insignia and flags of the Republic without a budget or personnel.

On June 30, 1973, by virtue of the Reorganization Act, the Philippine Heraldry Committee was abolished and the author was appointed Technical Adviser on Heraldry in the Office of the President of the Philippines.

The abolition of the Philippine Heraldry Committee does not mean that the heraldry work of the Republic is finished. Government offices continue to send requests for designs of new seals, medals and flags to the Office of the Technical Adviser on Heraldry in Malacañang. Flags, medals and insignia requisitioned by the Government have to be evaluated as to conformity to specifications, not only to protect the interest of the Government but what is more important is to maintain excellence of quality.

These heraldic symbols of the State do not only represent the highest ideals and aspirations of our people but are a living testimony to the patrimony of our race and nation.

The Philippine National Flag is not just a piece of cloth—it is emblematic of the State; our medals and decorations are not just pieces of metals—they are public documents which the President of the Philippines confers to the country's deserving citizens and friends as a recognition for a job well done, for meritorious achievements, for distinguished services, for bravery in the field of battle or the supreme sacrifice of life beyond the call of duty.

Today, there is even a greater need for these significant symbols of recognition and gratitude of a concerned President Ferdinand E. Marcos in the great task of nation building under the New Society.

Heraldry is a continuing and developing discipline of higher learning following the footsteps of history and reflecting the continuing changes of our culture, society and body politic.







## THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines, off the southeastern coast of mainland Asia, lies just above the equator. It is separated from Formosa (Taiwan) by the Bashi Channel on the north, and surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on the east, the Celebes Sea on the south, and the China Sea on the west. Consisting of more than 7,000 islands and islets (about 4,000 of which are still unnamed), it has a land area of 300,000 square kilometers.

The archipelago, with two pronounced seasons (wet and dry), produces rice, corn, sugar, coconut, abaca, timber, livestock, poultry, etc. Its natural resources are metallic and nonmetallic minerals, forestry and fishery.

The population, 36,684,486 in 1970, is composed of about 57 major and 20 minor cultural-linguistic groups in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with Iloko, Tagalog, Bikol and Cebuano as the most widely used dialects. *Pilipino*, however, is the official language, together with English and Spanish.

Named *Felipinas* (later spelled *Filipinas*) in 1543 by the Spanish explorer, Ruy Lopez de Villalobos, in honor of Prince Philip of Spain, the Philippines was earlier referred to by Chinese as *Mai*, *Liu-Sung* and *Chinsan*; and later by the Westerners as *Maniolas*, *Ophir*, *Islas del Oriente*, *Islas del Poniente*, *Islas de Luzones*, *Archipelago de Magallanes* and *Archipelago de Legazpi*. The present English and Pilipino names are Philippines and *Pilipinas*, respectively.

The country was discovered in 1521 by Ferdinand Magellan, who was subsequently killed by the natives led by Lapu-lapu, in an island known today as Mactan. Spain, however, continued to reign over the entire archipelago by setting up a colonial administration under Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the *adelantado* and first governor general in 1565. For more than three centuries, except during the British occupation of Manila (1762-1964), the colonial government ruled over the *Indios*, as the natives were derogatively called by the conquerors.

In the late 1890's, however, the Filipinos started to take up arms. A propaganda movement began to take shape and to take form. Jose Rizal with his novels fired the imagination of the Filipinos and in 1896 the revolution, led by Andres Bonifacio, began. This paved the way for the second phase of the Philippine Revolution in 1898.

A group of Filipinos proclaimed the Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898. A year later, in

1899, the first Philippine Republic was inaugurated in Malolos, Bulacan, with General Emilio Aguinaldo as president.

At the turn of the century, after the Spanish-American War and during the Filipino-American War, the American forces took over. A military government was established by the Americans in 1898, and later a civil government in 1901.

Due to the clamor of Filipinos for independence, the United States Congress enacted the Tydings-McDuffie Law in 1934. It provided for a transition government, the Commonwealth of the Philippines, preparatory to full statehood in 1946. Manuel L. Quezon (1934-1944) became the first president with Sergio Osmeña (1944-1946) succeeding him.

World War II found the Philippines fighting side by side with the Americans against Japan. The Japanese occupied the country from 1942 to 1944. In early 1943, a Japanese-sponsored Philippine Republic was inaugurated with Jose P. Laurel (1943-1945) as president. The country was finally liberated by the Americans in 1945.

On July 4, 1946, the United States recognized the independence of the Philippines. Manuel A. Roxas (1946-1948) became the first president of the Republic. He was succeeded by Elpidio Quirino (1948-1953), Ramon Magsaysay (1953-1957), Carlos P. Garcia (1957-1961), Diosdado Macapagal (1961-1965), and Ferdinand E. Marcos (1965 to date).

With critical challenges and a felt need for reforms, President Marcos placed the country under a state of martial law through Proclamation No. 1081 on September 21, 1972. The New Society established peace and order, boosted the economy, reorganized the bureaucracy, improved education, launched the cultural revival program, and promoted other vital aspects of the Filipino life.

Basically Malayan, the Filipino is a blend of eastern and western cultures. Intermarried with Oriental and Occidental peoples, he is religious—either Pagan, Muslim, Christian, or of other faiths. Christianity and Islam have, however, gained a better foothold on Philippine soil. He is also known for his hospitality as well as for his close family ties, respect for elders, and friendship.

Significantly, this beloved country—the Philippines—has been called the “Isles of Hope,” “Isles of Fear,” “Isles of Faith,” “Gems of the East,” “Emerald Islands,” but the most accepted and popular one is “Pearl of the Orient.”





### THE GREAT SEAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

*The Great Seal of the Republic was approved by Commonwealth Act No. 731, Congress of the Philippines on July 3, 1946. It was designed by then Captain Galo B. Ocampo, member and secretary of the Philippine Heraldry Committee.*

*The Philippine Sun Rayonnant occupies the point of honor in the center while the Three Stars, representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, occupy the chief of the shield. On the dexter (right side) on a field of blue is the baldheaded American Eagle, and on the sinister (left side) on a field of red the Lion Rampant. The history of the country is reflected in the coat of arms of the Republic, from the eight-rayed Philippine Sun to the three five-pointed Stars which are one and inseparable.*





### FLAG OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

*The Philippine Flag is the national emblem of the country. It stands for unity and national identity. It expresses the Filipino sentiments for freedom, equality, justice and nobility.*

*The Philippine National Flag has the unique distinction of being the only flag in the world signifying peace or war. In time of peace, it is the blue stripe which is on top of the red. In time of war, it is the red stripe on top of the blue.*

*The equilateral triangle on the left side of the flag is symbolic of equality among men. The eight rays of the Philippine Sun in the triangle represent the eight provinces that revolted against the Spanish rule. The three stars on each corner of the triangle stand for the three geographical divisions of the country -- Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.*

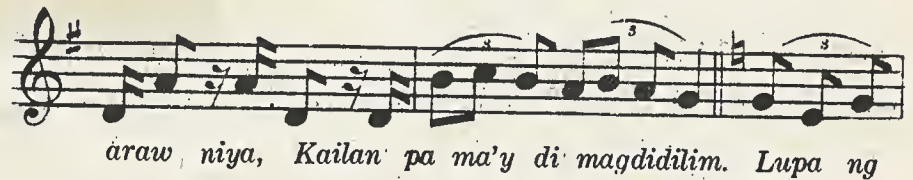
*The red stripe symbolizes the willingness of the Filipino to shed blood in defense of his country. The blue stands for common unity and the noble aspirations of the Filipino people.*



# PAMBANSANG AWIT

(National Anthem)

J. FELIPE





**JOSE RIZAL**  
*National Hero*

*(From a painting by Coniconde, Courtesy of the National Historical Institute.)*

*Jose Rizal y Alonzo, the foremost national hero of the Philippines, was born in Calamba, Laguna on June 19, 1861 to Francisco Mercado Rizal and Teodora Alonzo.*

*He was educated at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila and the University of Santo Tomas, studied in Spain and traveled in other European countries. While abroad he wrote his first novel entitled Noli Me Tangere (1887) which dealt with his life in the Philippines, and in this and a later novel, El Filibusterismo, he set forth his ideas for reforms.*

*On his return to the country 1892, he was imprisoned in Fort Santiago allegedly due to a seditious pamphlet, Pobres Frailes, and later exiled to Dapitan, Zamboanga in 1892. He was allowed to leave in 1896 as a volunteer physician for Cuba but he was arrested abroad, returned to Manila and was confined again in Fort Santiago where he wrote his Mi Ultimo Adios, a farewell poem of 14 stanzas.*

*After a mock trial by a military court on December 26, he was unjustly convicted of rebellion, sedition and formation of illegal societies and was sentenced to death two days later.*

*On December 30, 1896, Jose Rizal, the greatest apostle of Filipino nationalism and freedom, was shot at Bagumbayan Field (now Rizal Park).*



**SAMPAGUITA**  
*National Flower*

*The Sampaguita, a sweet-smelling perennial with waxy blossoms, is the Philippine National Flower. According to folklore, the name is derived from a love-smitten swain's promise ("sumpa-kita"), "I promise you", to his lady love.*





### BARONG PILIPINO AND BARO'T SAYA *National Costume*

*The Filipino woman's dress reflects oriental and western influences – from the Malay, the sarong; the Chinese, the loose pants and mandarin coat; and the Spanish, the baro (blouse) and saya (skirt). The baro, made from either abaca, piña, maguey or jusi fibers, has long loose sleeves with panuelo or baksa, draped about the shoulders. The saya is a wide ample skirt with an over-skirt called tapis.*

*From the baro't saya, several modifications were created, each representing a style - the Maria Clara, the mestiza dress, and the terno.*

*Regional wear is also a fashion. For the women of Luzon, the balintawak, the Visayan women, the patadyong; and the Muslim women, light-fitting trousers with malong draped over one shoulder and wrapped around the body in a sari fashion.*

*The Barong Pilipino was originally an expensive wear for the Filipino males, traditionally of Piña cloth and lavish embroideries. Several modifications were made since its first appearance in 1770 until about 1830 when the Indio adopted the baro with pigtailed and a handkerchief at the neck.*

*At present, aside from piña fiber, jusi, jusilyn (cotton and polythelene), and ramie or 'China Grass' are used in the manufacture of the Barong.*

*Today, the Barong Pilipino and the baro't saya or any of its styles are used only during formal or semi-formal occasions.*







### MALACAÑANG PALACE

*On Calle de Malacañang (now Jose P. Laurel St.), San Miguel District, City of Manila, is Malacañan Palace, the official residence of the President of the Republic of the Philippines. A house of recreation when purchased by the Spanish Government, it served as summer residence for its governors-general. However, when the official residence in Intramuros was destroyed by the earthquake in 1863, the Governor-General moved to the Possession de Malacañan, as it was known then. From that time on, Malacañan Palace has served as official residence for all the succeeding chief executives of the land.*

*According to two version, Malacanan originated from the Tagalog words, mamalakaya, meaning sitio de pescadores or "village of fishermen", or from the words may lakan diyan, which means "there is a noble there." Due to Castilian influence and use, it became the hispanized word Malacañang, later spelled Malacañan.*



### SEAL AND FLAG OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

*The Sealion represents the heraldic symbol of Filipinas ultramar. The Katipunan triangle in red represents equality under the law; the Three Stars are for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and the Philippine Sun Rayonnant represents liberty and freedom. The Stars in the circular border around the Sun represent as many provinces as there are in the Republic.*

*The Field of the Flag is the Presidential Blue color, which is attributed to royalty and ruling hierarchy.*

*The use of the Presidential Seal is solely for and by the highest magistrate of the land.*



*The coat of arms of the Republic of the Philippines are needed in the normal operation of the various offices of the government.*

*Heraldry has permeated contemporary life in the use of administrative or corporate seals (commonly referred to as dry seals) to authenticate and attest to government documents issued by these offices.*

*The proclamation of Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946 issued by then President Harry T. Truman, attested by then Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson and the corresponding Philippine documents have to be attested and authenticated by the Great Seals of the Philippines and the United States — hence the request of President Manuel Roxas for the design of the Great Seal of the young Republic.*

*The Great Seal of the Republic of the Philippines was only the beginning. What followed were the seals or coats of arms of the different provinces and chartered cities and the different offices in the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches of our young Republic.*

*Provinces, chartered cities, or offices of the government have to have seals containing symbols pertinent to and appropriate for each entity.*



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR





DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE



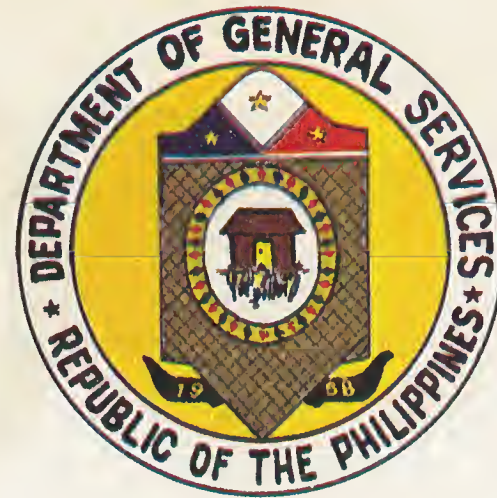
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE



NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY



DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY



DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chapter Three

THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*Seals of Chartered Cities  
Republic of the Philippines*



# HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BAGUIO

BAGUIO CITY, which lies among the cloud-kissed mountains and hills in the subprovince of Benguet, ranges in elevation from 4,500 to 5,500 feet. It has an average temperature of 65°F.

The city, about 250 kilometers north of Manila, has a land area of 48.9 square kilometers and a population of 84,538 in 1970. Ilokano is the dominant dialect.

Baguio largely depends on mining and agricultural industries. The people are also engaged in floriculture, wood carving, weaving, piggery, poultry raising, and dairying. They are skilled in fashioning gold, silver, and other metals.

Baguio was named after "*bigyiw*," meaning "moss," a green plant which the first Igorot found around the lake (now Burnham Lake). The Igorots in Baguio are called Ibaloi or Inibaloi, resembling the Pangasinan people in custom and dialect. They had abandoned head-hunting long before the Americans came, and have cultivated rice fields, camote patches, and raised pigs and chickens.

Alonso Martin Quirante, the chief magistrate and commandant of the Province of Pangasinan, went to the Province of the Igorots in 1642. The Spaniards loosely "governed" the Igorots for over 200 years from their headquarters known as the *Comandancia Poltica General de Igorotes* at Agoo, La Union. The Augustinian friars from 1654 to 1659 attempted to christianize the Igorots, partly through force, but they failed. Later, on October 16, 1755, Padre Vivar, an Augustinian friar, held the first mass at La Trinidad. In 1846, *Comandante* Guillermo Galvey, after 45 preliminary exploratory expeditions, established his *comandancia* at La Trinidad (named after his wife).

Several years before the Revolution of 1896, an uprising occurred in La Trinidad. In July 1899, about 500 revolutionists

burned the *comandancia*; *Comandante* Bejar fled to Bontoc. Juan Cariño was made the governor of Benguet under the first Philippine Republic.

On November 23, 1900, Act No. 49 of the Philippine Commission established a civil government for the Province of Benguet with Baguio as the capital. H. Phelps Whitmarsh became the first civil governor.

During World War II, Baguio was the first place in the Philippines to be struck by the Japanese warplanes when they bombed Camp John Hay on December 8, 1941, and it was the last occupied area by the invaders until the American forces liberated the city on April 26, 1945. General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered at the American Embassy in Camp John Hay on September 3, 1945, after he lost in a battle in the mountains above Kiangnan, Ifugao.

Baguio became a town through Act No. 48, enacted on November 22, 1900, and Act No. 1397 which superseded it on September 14, 1905. On June 1, 1903, the Philippine Commission made Baguio as the summer capital of the Philippines. The City of Baguio was created on September 1, 1909 by Act No. 1963.

Baguio City is famous for its rare beauty and grandeur; Mt. Sto. Tomas, the 7,500 feet peak, offers a view of the China Sea and the pine-carpeted countryside; the Crystal Cave, with walls lustered and colored, resembles the best cut glass; the Mummy Cave, a vast cavern of mummified bodies of warriors and their families; the Asin Hot Spring provides medicinal water; and the Trinidad Valley, the green granary of Baguio, provides vegetables and luscious strawberries. The other places of interest are the Burnham Park and Lake, the Mansion House, the Mines View Park, the Outlook Drive, the Teachers' Camp, the Philippine Military Academy, the Grotto of the Virgin of Lourdes, the Dominican Hill, Mount Mirador and the marketplace.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**EVERLASTING**  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF BAGUIO

The City of Baguio was created under Act 2711 (RAC) on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Baguio

<i>Upper Portion</i>	— pine trees, which clad the mountains and typifies the city.
<i>Lower Portion</i>	— zigzag road, a unique feature of the city.
<i>Right Side</i>	— beautiful Bridal Veil Falls, one of the best features of Baguio City.
<i>Diagonal Line</i>	— gold coins, signifying the mines of Baguio City.

## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF DAGUPAN

DAGUPAN CITY is bounded on the north and northwest by the Lingayen Gulf, on the east by Mangaldan, on the south by Calasiao and Sta. Barbara, and on the west by Binmaley.

With a land area of 37.2 square kilometers, it had a population of 83,582 in 1970.

Fishing is an important source of livelihood of the people. Marshlands and swamps have been converted into fishponds. *Bañgus* (milkfish) from the city are sold in the markets of Central Luzon and Manila at better prices than those from other parts of Luzon. *Bocayo*, a confection of sugar molasses and grated coconut, is a famous delicacy of the city.

Formerly called Bacnotan (or Bagnotan), it was made a *visita* by the Augustinians; but the ministration of the place was turned over to the Dominicans in 1614.

As a flourishing coastal settlement, the village became a thriving commercial center in the 17th century. Merchants from the other towns of Pangasinan plied their wares and established their warehouses on both sides of the river, in the barrios of Calmay and Pantal.

Due to a disastrous fire in 1661, caused by the forces of Andres Malong (the leader of the Pangasinan revolt), the name of Bacnotan was changed to *Nandaragupan*, which means "where once stood the commercial center."

In 1720, the name Nandaragupan was shortened to Dagupan. Its town plaza, as well as the schoolbuilding and the public market, was reconstructed.

The Dominicans set up the *Colegio de San Alberto de Magno* for the education of young men in 1892. It was turned over to the *Congregacion de Misionerias de Santo Domingo* as a school for young girls in 1924. The schoolbuilding, however, was destroyed by the great flood in August 1935.

Dagupan, as a progressive *pueblo* ruled by a *gobernadorcillo*, and later by a *capitan municipal*, was destroyed by an earthquake on March 16, 1892. The plaza, schoolbuilding, and roads were again reconstructed.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the Spanish forces led by Federico Coballos surrendered to the Filipino revolutionary forces under General Francisco Makabulos.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Dagupan suffered the hardships and atrocities of the Japanese occupation forces. On January 9, 1945, the American Liberation Forces led by General Douglas MacArthur landed in Blue Beach, Bonuan. The attack of the Americans at Dagupan City led to the liberation of Central Luzon from the Japanese invaders.

Dagupan was made a chartered city by Republic Act No. 117 on June 20, 1947. The city, after war, was oftentimes referred to as the "Gateway to the North." A noted educational and cultural center, it has various colleges, vocational schools, and a university, the first to be set up in Pangasinan.

Dagupan City, a tourist attraction of the province, is noted for its sandy beaches, particularly those found in Blue Beach, Bonuan. A newly constructed vacationists' resort is the *Tondaligan Park*, overlooking the Lingayen Gulf.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*



ROSAL  
*City Flower*



## CITY OF DAGUPAN

The City of Dagupan was created under R.A. 170 on June 20, 1947.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Dagupan

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Horseshoe Magnet</i> | —suggests the meaning of Dagupan which is “the meeting place, the center”—because a magnet attracts all to itself. |
| <i>Horseshoe Shape</i>  | —means good luck.  |
| <i>Wings in Flight</i>  | —signifies speed, progress, ambition.  |
| <i>Crossroads</i>       | —further signifies the name Dagupan as meeting place and center of commerce and industry, education and culture.   |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LAOAG

LAOAG CITY, located in the western part of the Province of Ilocos Norte, is bounded by the municipalities of Vintar on the north, Bacarra on the northeast, Paoay on the south, San Nicolas and Sarrat on the east, and the China Sea on the west.

The city has a land area of 107.5 square kilometers. It had a population of 61,727 in 1970. Farming is the most important economic activity of the people. They are also engaged in home-weaving and *basi*-making.

In 1572, Captain Juan de Salcedo reached Laoag by way of Laoag River. When he was met by the hostile natives, Salcedo left for Currimaos. The following year, in 1573, Governor General Guido de Lavezares again sent Salcedo to subdue the Ilocos region, which was later created as the province of Ilocos with the capital at Vigan or Villa Fernandina.

The parish of Laoag was founded in 1580 by the Augustinian friars. A wooden chapel was built, which was later replaced with a church of stone.

Six years later, in 1586, the town of Laoag was founded. It became the center of the Ilocos revolts caused by the arbitrary collection of tributes by the *encomenderos*, tobacco monopoly, and forced labor. The uprising of 1787 was a resentment against the imposition of the tobacco monopoly instituted from February 9, 1780 to March 1, 1782. In 1807, a revolt was waged against the injustices of the wine monopoly and in 1811, the uprising was due to the abuses of the friars. A hundred years later, in 1882, the tobacco monopoly was abolished.

On February 2, 1818, Ilocos Norte was created as a province with Laoag as its capital.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, General Manuel Tinio headed the revolutionary army in the region. The revolutionists occupied the church of Laoag after the Spaniards were driven out of the town in 1898.

With the coming of the American forces, civil government was established in Laoag on September 1, 1901.

During World War II, on December 12, 1941, a unit of the Kanno Detachment of the Japanese Imperial Forces bombed the airfield of Laoag and subsequently occupied the town. The combined Filipino-American forces liberated Laoag in February 1945.

Laoag was made a chartered city by Republic Act No. 4584 on June 19, 1965. It was inaugurated on January 1, 1966, after the people voted in a plebiscite held during the national elections in November 1965.

The historical landmarks of the city are the centuries old St. William Cathedral and the monument to the abolition of the tobacco monopoly at the town plaza. Laoag City has also panoramic attractions like the "Sinking Tower of Laoag," considered the tallest and most massive solid bell tower in the Philippines; the Raquiza Gardens and Waterworks; and the sand dunes of La Paz.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF LAOAG

The City of Laoag was created under R.A. 4584 on June 19, 1961.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Laoag

- Building and Garden* — the Ermita Garden and Building on top of the Ermita Hill.
- Bridge* — formerly the Gilbert Bridge, recently renamed Marcos Bridge.
- Airport* — the Gabu Airport, one of the biggest international airports of the country.
- Tower* — the Sinking Tower, one of the oldest and strongest edifices built during the early Spanish Regime.
- Monument* — the Tobacco Monopoly Monument, the only one of its kind in the entire country.
- Farmer Plowing* — symbol of the agricultural industry of the Ilocos Region.



ROSAL  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SAN CARLOS (PANGASINAN)

SAN CARLOS CITY, the oldest town in Pangasinan, is located in the central part of the province. It is bounded on the north by the town of Calasiao; on the northeast by the town of Sta. Barbara; on the northwest by the town of Bugallon; on the south by the towns of Urbiztondo and Bayambang; on the east by the town of Malasiqui; and on the west by the town of Aguilar.

San Carlos has a land area of 166.4 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 84,333 (14% urban and 86% rural).

The important crops of the city are rice, corn, fruits and vegetables.

During the Spanish period, the area of what is now San Carlos was the seat of the kingdom of King Kasikis. In 1587, the Dominican missionaries founded a *pueblo* and named it *Sapan Palapar*, the site of the present barrio of San Juan. Mongo, or "*balatong*" in the Tagalog dialect, grew abundantly in the place; hence, the town was called "Binalatongan."

Binalatongan was the site of two local revolts in Pangasinan. One was waged by Andres Malong in 1660. He set the town on fire; hence, the seat of the government was transferred from Binalatongan to the present site of the city on November 4, 1718, St. Charles Day (San Carlos Borromeo). The name of the old town was changed from Binalatongan to San Carlos, in honor of St. Charles. In 1762, another revolt was led by Juan de la Cruz Palaris due to the unlawful and abusive collection of taxes.

During the Revolution of 1896, the residents organized their own revolutionary forces despite the attempt of Captain Juan Rosario to pacify the local authorities.

The Americans established a civil government and the public school system in 1901.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the people of San Carlos waged underground operations against the Japanese invaders through the organization of guerrilla units. When the American Liberation Forces landed in Lingayen on January 9, 1945, the guerrilla units pushed on towards the other towns of Pangasinan. San Carlos was liberated on the following day (January 10th).

Republic Act No. 4487, approved on June 19, 1965, created the City of San Carlos. It was inaugurated on January 1, 1966 as a third class chartered city.

San Carlos City takes pride in its impressive landmarks which include a memorial park in honor of its illustrious son, the late Speaker Eugenio Perez; a city hall; and a Catholic church.

The noted educational institutions of the city are the San Carlos College; the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery of the Virgen Milagrosa Hospital; the San Carlos City General Hospital; and the Speaker Eugenio Perez National Agricultural School.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**ROSAL**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF SAN CARLOS**

The City of San Carlos was created under R.A. 4487 on June 19, 1965.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of San Carlos**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Colors</i>              | — colors of the Philippine Flag.   |
| <i>Gear</i>                | — symbol of the city's commerce and industry.  |
| <i>Factory</i>             | — symbol of the progress and development of San Carlos City.                                   |
| <i>Lower Left Portion</i>  | — signifies that agriculture is the principal means of livelihood of the people of San Carlos. |
| <i>Lower Right Portion</i> | — signifies that cottage industry is another major up-an-coming source of income of the city.  |

## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ANGELES

ANGELES CITY is located in the northeastern part of the Province of Pampanga. It is bounded in the north by Mabalacat and Magalang, in the east by Arayat and Sta. Ana, in the south by Porac, Mexico and San Fernando and in the west by the Province of Zambales.

It has a land area of 6,438.82 hectares (as early as 1846, when Captain General Narciso Claveria increased its size), an alternate dry and wet season, and an alluvial soil suitable to sugar cane, rice, corn, *ajonjoli* (oily grain), and *anil* (indigo). The place also abounds with banana, buri and *gogo*.

The early Negrito settlers were driven out from this northern outpost of Pampanga which was called Culiat, from the woody vine, *culiat*, that grew in the settlement only. In 1796, Don Angel Pantaleon de Miranda and Dona Rosalia de Jesus moved to the barrio and cleared its forest for the cultivation of sugar and rice.

On May 12, 1812, the new settlers attempted to establish a self-governing town which was strongly opposed by the friars (including Fray Jose Pometa, O.S.A.). The same year, they also constructed the first chapel of Culiat. Ten years later, in 1822, another request was again denied because the separation of the barrio would cause a reduction of tributes and an impediment to missionary work.

In the barrio and around the area, Don Angel established the first primary school, constructed a *muscovado* sugar mill and an alcohol distillery, locally called *alacan* or *alambique*. On February 11, 1828, he filed a petition for the political independence of Culiat, and in 1829, again jointly signed another petition with Dr. Mariano Henson and Don Severino Henson. He donated 35 hectares for the construction of the first Catholic church and its convent, while Dona Agustina Henson de Miranda gave a land for the rebuilding of the public market.

On December 8, 1829, Don Angel paid the complete amount required by law for the political emancipation of Culiat, then under a *cabeza de barangay*, which was sanctioned by the actual *Alcalde Mayor*, *Juez* and the *Senor Teniente Coronel Comandante Militar*, Don Antonio Chacon y Conde of San Fernando.

On the same date, the parish priest of San Fernando also granted its spiritual independence. Culiat was renamed Angeles in honor of the patron saints, *Los Santos Angeles Custodios* (The Holy Guardian Angels) and the Christian name of its founder, Angel.

On November 24, 1892, the Manila-Dagupan railroad line which passed through Angeles was inaugurated. The railway route later became a vital link and byway of the revolutionary forces at the height of the Spanish-Filipino War.

During the Philippine-American War, General Emilio Aguinaldo transferred the seat of the government from San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, to Angeles, Pampanga, on May 7, 1899 until July of the same year when he moved to Tarlac, Tarlac. In this town, the wife of General Aguinaldo organized the Angeles Chapter of the Philippine Revolutionary Army Red Cross at the home of Don Ricardo Nepomuceno y Paras. After three days of bloody battle with the Filipino Revolutionary Forces, the United States Infantry under General Arthur MacArthur penetrated the town on August 16, 1899 while the Filipino brigades were still defending the Mabalacat side of the Abacan River. On January 1, 1900, General Grant organized the civil government of Angeles by appointing its *alcalde*.

During the Second World War, when the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied the Philippines, a local government was reestablished by the invaders on January 22, 1942, until the liberation of the town by the American forces in 1945.

After years of planning, Angeles became a chartered city by virtue of Republic Act No. 3700, which was approved on June 22, 1963.

During the sugar boom, after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Angeles became a major market center (collection and distribution) of the surrounding sugar-producing municipalities. With the subsequent presence of Chinese *gremios* (merchant associations) and the installation of the American military base, Fort Stotsenburg, later absorbed by Clark Air Base, the economy of the town brought about its classification as a first class city.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF ANGELES

The City of Angeles was created under R.A. 3700 on June 22, 1963.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Angeles

<i>Golden Leaf</i>	— the Antipulu tree leaf, symbolizing greatness, permanence and honor.	<i>Blue Background</i>	— symbolizes the vastness of economic potentialities of Angeles City.
<i>White Background</i>	— signifies purity of intention, and nobility of purpose.	<i>Red Background</i>	— symbolizes the martyrdom of many Angeles citizens.
<i>Golden Hawk</i>	— The hawk, clutching the symbolic shell of abundance and leading a flight of small birds, represents the economic leadership of Angeles City over all Pampanga towns.	<i>"A" and 1796</i>	— "AA" stands for Angel-Angeles Pantaleon de Miranda. The Year 1796 traces the origin of the city from Barrio Culiati.
		<i>Golden Background</i>	— symbolizes the great achievement and success of the city founders.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CABANATUAN

CABANATUAN CITY lies in the center of the Province of Nueva Ecija. It is bounded by the towns of Llanera and Bongabon in the north, Santa Rosa in the south, Laur in the east, and Talavera in the west.

It has a land area of 192.7 square kilometers and a population of 23,890 in 1887 and 99,890 in 1970. With a temperate and healthful climate, the farm lands yield bountiful harvests of rice, corn, sugar cane, vegetables, tobacco and fruits.

Although there are three versions of the name of "Cabanatuan" the popularly accepted origin is the Tagalog word "*Kabatuhan*" which means a place where stones are in abundance.

Cabanatuan was founded by the Augustinians in 1770 and it became a regular parish in 1775. As a small barrio of Gapan, it was converted into a municipality by the Spanish Military Governor, Colonel Monet, on July 14, 1777. The town was later made the capital of the province, next to Bongabon. Due to a big fire that razed Cabanatuan to ashes in 1816, the provincial seat of government was transferred to San Isidro. The Recollects then administered the parish until it was turned over to the seculars in 1864. The old church of the town was destroyed by an earthquake in 1880. Thus, Father Mariano Rivas directed the rebuilding of a new church while Father P. J. La Fuente constructed the parochial house.

Under General Manuel Tinio, the people of Cabanatuan responded to the Northern Luzon Central Command of the Filipino Revolutionary Forces in 1896. Later, after the fall of Calumpit and Malolos, both in Bulacan, General Emilio Aguinaldo's troops occupied strategic positions in Nueva Ecija, with Cabanatuan, on May 9, 1896, as its temporary seat of government until the national capital was transferred to Bamban, Tarlac. In the convent of the Church of Cabanatuan, General Antonio Luna was treacherously killed by Captain Pedro Jonolino, whom Luna previously disarmed at Polo, Bulacan, for insubordination. His aide, Colonel Paco Roman, was also killed.

Under the American rule, the civil government was established in Cabanatuan with Juan Jimenez as its first municipal president. Later, the Manila Railroad line was extended to the town in 1904 and the municipality was again made the provincial capital in 1912.

During World War II, the Japanese planes bombed the municipality, while the Japanese Imperial Army who landed at Baler, Quezon, slashed their way through Bongabon and occupied Cabanatuan on February 1, 1942. The *Hukbo ng Bayan laban sa Hapon (HUKBALAHAP)*, a guerrilla force, however, controlled the town despite the presence of enemy troops. Hence, the place was then referred to as "*Huklandia*."

After heavy fighting in the Central Luzon area and the destruction of Cabanatuan by incendiary bombs of the liberation forces, the Americans occupied the town on February 1, 1945. Two sets of government were then established, with the HUKS organizing their own headquarters and staff, and the Americans, under Captain John L. Evans, reestablishing a civil government with Ricardo T. Jimenez and Ricardo G. Carlos as mayor and vice-mayor, respectively.

Congressman Jesus Ilagan sponsored Republic Act No. 526, approved on June 16, 1950, which converted the Municipality of Cabanatuan into a chartered city. It, however, officially functioned as a city on July 24 of the same year with Sergio S. Ocampo as mayor and Benigno Fajardo as vice-mayor. Its official inauguration was held on February 1, 1951.

The "biggest little city in the Philippines" as referred to by the residents is the "rice granary of the Philippines." It stands as a keypoint to the richer regions of Northern Luzon and as a "Mother City" of two other cities in Nueva Ecija, San Jose and Palayan.

Of historical interest, aside from various religious and educational buildings and institutions, are two statues of General Luna in the Cabanatuan Plaza and (mounted on a horse) in front of the Cathedral where he was assassinated. As an adopted son of the city, a steel and concrete bridge was named after Luna.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

### CITY OF CABANATUAN

The City of Cabanatuan was created under R.A. 526 on June 16, 1950.

#### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cabanatuan

CABANATUAN	— derived from the Pilipino phrase <i>kaban ng tuwa</i> meaning “chest of joy.”	<i>Yellow Background</i>	— common sight during harvest time.
<i>Haystack and Grains of Palay</i>	— symbolize season of plenty.	<i>Plow and Head of Carabao</i>	— common tool and working companion of a farmer.
		<i>Year 1950</i>	— date of birth of the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF OLONGAPO

OLONGAPO CITY is located at the northwestern coast of Luzon in the Province of Zambales. It is bounded on the north and northwest by the municipality of Subic, south and west by Subic Naval Base, and east by the municipality of Subic and the Subic Naval Base.

The city, with a land area of 103.3 square kilometers, is isolated from the rest of the province by the surrounding Zambales mountain ranges. As of 1970, it had a population of 107,785.

Olongapo was already a small fishing village inhabited by the Zambals, a primitive tribe, when Captain Juan de Salcedo reached the region during his exploration of Luzon in 1572. The province of Zambales was under the spiritual ministration of the Recollects from 1609 to 1679. The Dominicans, however, founded its villages, including Subic with Olongapo, which became a barrio after the settlement of people from distant places.

In 1868, the Spaniards fully realized the potentialities of Olongapo as a naval base due to the uniform depth and width of its bay and the mountain ranges on three sides which provide protection from strong winds. By 1884, a Royal Decree, issued by King Alfonso XII, sought to make Olongapo as Spain's naval stronghold in the Far East. Thus, in 1885, Don Juan Bautista y Antiquiera founded the barrio as a Spanish naval settlement. The intensified construction of the naval arsenal caused by the probable threat of Japan as a rising power, was stopped during the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.

On July 7, 1898, the American naval fleet under Admiral George Dewey captured the Spanish garrison in Grande Island, off Olongapo. This was, however, turned over to the Revolutionary government as Dewey "had no way to keep them." Later, in 1901, the U.S. President, Theodore Roosevelt, issued an executive order retaining Subic Bay and 70,000 acres of adjacent land, including Olongapo, as a military reservation. Subic was developed to Sangley Point, Cavite, in 1922, to provide immediate support to Corregidor. Subic then served as a dry dock.

Olongapo, in spite of its isolated geographical position, also suffered the consequences of World War II. The town and

the American naval station were bombed by Japanese planes on December 12, 1941 and occupied by the Japanese Imperial Forces on January 10, the next year.

During the Japanese rule, several resistance movements were organized, one of which was the Western Luzon Guerrilla Forces with an outstanding leader, Ramon Magsaysay, who became the third President of the Republic of the Philippines.

After heavy bombings during the American liberation of the islands, Olongapo and the naval base were occupied by the XI Corps commanded by Major General Charles P. Hall on January 30, 1945. The barrio was transferred to a new underdeveloped site a couple of miles north of its former location and the original site was made a part of the naval station.

After July 4, 1946, when the independence of the Philippines was recognized by the United States, Subic Bay and the Naval reservation in Olongapo were again retained by the US government by virtue of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement of 1947.

Olongapo thus continued to be administered by the United States Navy. This confusing administrative setup later led to conflicts between the US naval authorities and the local officials. In a joint survey-study of the Philippine Foreign Affairs and the US Embassy, they recommended, despite some opposition, to turn over Olongapo to the local government.

On December 7, 1959, President Carlos P. Garcia signed Executive Order No. 366, creating the Municipality of Olongapo. Ruben Geronimo became its first appointive mayor and James Gordon the first elective mayor in 1963.

Under Republic Act No. 4645, dated June 1, 1966, which was introduced by Representative Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., the municipality was created into a city. Three months after, on September 3, Vice-President Fernando Lopez formally inaugurated the city, and later, in the first city election, James Gordon, the first elected municipal mayor, also became the first city mayor.

The U-shaped Olongapo City, home of the largest American naval base in the Far East, is also known for its beautiful beaches.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*



ILANG-ILANG  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF OLONGAPO

The City of Olongapo was created under R.A. 4695 on June 1, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Olongapo

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Mountains</i>              | — symbol of the mountains of Zambales.  |
| <i>Structure<br/>(middle)</i> | — stands for the U.S. Naval Base, largest US naval support base in Southeast Asia and generates millions of US dollars for the city economy every year. |
| <i>Body of Water</i>          | — Subic Bay, which was used as a naval stronghold in the Spanish regime due to its strategic location   |

## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF PALAYAN

THE CITY OF PALAYAN, about 11 kilometers north of Cabanatuan City, is situated near the barrios of Malate (in the town of Bongabon) and Ganaderia (in the Municipality of Laur—along the Cabanatuan-Bongabon Road in the Province of Nueva Ecija. It consists mostly of rolling hills against the backdrop of towering mountains. The newly created city is very near the Pampanga River, the source of power of the Pampanga-Bongabon River Irrigation System.

The city has a land area of 35.6 square kilometers. It is composed of nine barrios, from the neighboring towns of Laur and Bongabon, and the City of Cabanatuan.

In 1970, Palayan had a population of 8,382. The principal sources of livelihood of the people are farming, poultry and piggery. Its principal crops are rice, corn and vegetables.

Palayan, though marked with absence of buildings and government edifices, is the only city where the Bayanihan Project is intensively and extensively conducted by the residents. The town plaza is one big vegetable and fruit garden.

On June 19, 1965, Republic Act No. 4475 created Palayan City. By the end of the year, the city was inaugurated. The original bill was introduced by Representatives Eugenio Baltao of the First District and Felicísimo Ocampo of the Second District of Nueva Ecija. It was acted upon during the Fourth Session of the Fifth Congress of the Philippines.

The city is still a part of the provincial administration and belongs to the Second District of Nueva Ecija. Until such time as the city shall definitely resolve to elect its officials, the provincial governor and the provincial vice-governor remain as

*ex officio* city mayor and city vice-mayor, respectively. The members of the provincial board and three others to be appointed by the President, are the *ex officio* members of the city council, and the heads of the provincial offices as *ex officio* heads of the city government offices.

The Fourth National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines was held at the 32-hectare Jamboree site at Camp Atate (in Palayan City) on May 10 to 18, 1969.

In June 1969, the capital city of Nueva Ecija was transferred from Cabanatuan City to Palayan City.

Spearheading the Green Revolution movement in the province, in line with the program of the National Government, the city has developed a nursery of fruit and vegetable seedlings into a growing commercial enterprise. A seed bank has likewise been constructed. Thus, many towns of the province get their supply of seeding from the city whenever they undertake their Green Revolution projects.

All the barrios in the city are engaged in intensive food production. In Ganaderia, the people have a communal fish-pond project supported by the Bureau of Fisheries. In another barrio, the residents are assisted by the Bureau of Animal Industry in order to improve their poultry and livestock farms. The Bongabon Stock Farm takes charge of producing new breed of animals in the city.

Palayan City may not have the features of an urban community but it promises to be an industrial, commercial, and even cultural center of the Province of Nueva Ecija.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**PALAYAN CITY BEAUTY**  
(*Palung-palungan*)  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF PALAYAN

The City of Palayan was created under R.A. 4475 on June 19, 1965.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Palayan

*Upper Portion* — Carabao head and plow, signifying agriculture as the province's principal industry and source of livelihood.

*Lower Portion* — three (3) rice haystacks, also to stand for farming as the major source of income of the population.

*Golden Leaves* — symbolizes the wealth and bounty of the province.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE (Nueva Ecija)

SAN JOSE CITY, before it became a town, was a veritable hunting ground for wild animals by the inhabitants of the neighboring towns. Its earliest inhabitants were known as Negritos (*Baluga*) headed by Kapitang Danding, a Negrito convert residing in Pinagcuartilan. These inhabitants depended mostly on hunting and fishing for their livelihood. Some hunters from the neighboring towns found San Jose a good place for settlers due to its wide and uncleared agricultural land. The first group of settlers made some clearings (*kalingin*) in the outskirts of the present town.

Originally, San Jose was a part of the town of Puncan, founded in 1701 by the Augustinians. Later, because of its nearness to Lupao, it was made a barrio of the latter.

Formerly, the city was known as Barrio "*Kabaritan*" which means a place where "*barit*" (an Ilocano word for a plant that belongs to the rattan family), grows in abundance.

On March 19, 1894, San Jose became a full-fledged town, with an interim government headed by a *Kapitan Municipal*. It was named San Jose, after Saint Joseph, the patron saint of the place. The Ilocanos from Tarlac, Pangasinan, Ilocos region, and some parts of Nueva Ecija, especially the towns of Sto. Domingo, Muñoz and Lupao, came to San Jose and cleared its wilderness.

During the Spanish regime, the barrio of San Jose was a municipal district of Lupao under a *teniente absoluto*, Don Olegario Fajardo. Later, when it was declared as a town in 1894, the position was changed to *Capitan Municipal*. Canuto Ramos, appointed as the first *Capitan*, served from 1894 to 1898. One of his achievements was the construction of an irrigation system (now the Talavera River Irrigation System) which was later taken and enlarged by the government to irrigate vast icefields, as far as the towns of Muñoz and Talavera.

In 1900, a revolutionary government was set up in San Jose until the establishment of a civil government under the Americans on June 11, 1901.

The economic progress started by *Kapitan* Canuto in 1898, was continued by *Kapitan* Jose Cardenas (a general of the Phil-

ippine Revolution) who prepared the layout of the town between 1900 and 1901. Succeeding Cardenas, was Celestino Jabalde who continued the construction of roads in the poblacion.

San Jose under the American regime became a progressive town. In 1904, the election of its local officials was held, and Crisanto Sanchez became the first elected municipal president. From 1912 to 1916, school buildings were constructed for the increasing school population under the administration of Agapito Kurameng.

At the outbreak of World War II, on December 8, 1941, San Jose was made an evacuation center. It was chosen as a safe place (with ample water and food supply) because it was far from the military installations and troops in Cabanatuan City.

On December 23, 1941, two Japanese planes bombed San Jose. The populace suffered heavy casualties and they fled to its remotest barrios. An emergency government was established in Barrio Porais with Basilio Duran as the appointed mayor of the military command. The emergency government existed for a short time due to the arrival of the Japanese Imperial Forces on January 26, 1942.

With the reestablishment of the Commonwealth government, Anselmo Patacsil, Pedro del Pilar and Basilio Duran were successively appointed as mayors by the Philippine Civil Affairs Unit (PCAU). Each served for a short term from 1945 to 1946. They cooperated and coordinated with the PCAU. They also helped in the establishment of an emergency hospital, the North Nueva Ecija Provincial High School, and the reopening of elementary schools.

Today, San Jose is the "melting pot" of Nueva Ecija. Its geographical location has influenced many Tagalogs, Ilocanos, Pangasinenses and Pampangos who settled and engaged in agricultural production for commercial pursuits. It became a city by virtue of Republic Act No. 6051, approved on August 4, 1969. Atty. Arturo B. Pascual and Mr. Jaime A. Patacsil took their oaths of office as first city mayor and city vice-mayor, respectively. All the other municipal officials of the defunct municipality of San Jose also took their oaths as city officials.



*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF SAN JOSE

The City of San Jose was created under R.A. 6051 on August 4, 1969.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of San Jose



**CHAMPACA**  
*City Flower*

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sun</i>                           | —symbolizes location of the city as center of commerce, agriculture and industry.   |
| <i>Four Sun Rays</i>                 | —represent the routes going north of Cagayan, Manila and the South, Quezon and Tayabas, and Pangasinan and neighboring towns. |
| <i>Carabao Head and Plow</i>         | —signifies that agriculture is the main industry of the city.   |
| <i>Grains of Palay and Warehouse</i> | —symbol of <b>Wagwag San Jose</b> , a high quality variety of rice.   |
|                                      | —symbol of industry and the potentialities of the city to be an industrial center.  |
| <i>Wheel</i>                         | —signifies the fast and continuous progress of the city in the fields of commerce and industry.                               |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BATANGAS

BATANGAS CITY, along the Batangas Bay, is bounded on the north by the municipalities of Sta. Teresita, Bauan and Ibaan; on the south by the North Pass of the Verde Island; on the east by the municipalities of Taysan and Lobo, and on the west by the Batangas Bay. On its southern portion is Mt. Banoy. It has an area of 283.8 square kilometers and a population of 108,868 in 1970.

Shielded by the Maricaban and Verde Islands, the port of Batangas affords a safe anchorage for ships during stormy weather.

Batangas began as a small village where the present Provincial Capitol now stands. In 1572, the region was known as *Region de Comintan*. Nine years later, in 1581, a convent was erected by Father Diego Mexica. So progressive was the community that in 1601 it became a municipality with Don Agustín Casulao as the first *gobernadorcillo*.

Batangas, though an old settlement, was selected as the seat of the provincial government after the eruptions of Mt. Taal in 1716 and 1754. By 1870, the barrios of the town were Balagtas, Bilogo, Bolbok, Bukal Catandala, Konde, De la Paz, Kumintang, Ibaba, Matuko, Mapagong, Paharang, Kanluran, Pairan, Pinamukan, Patulo, Sampaga, San Agapito, San Isidro, and Talahib.

From 1814 to 1892, Batangas was a progressive "coffee port" of Lipa. Although the coffee plantations were destroyed by a blight, Batangas remained as an important port of call after 1892.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Governor Manuel Sapata arrested Casimiro Beredo and Francisco Blanco who were exiled to Fernando Po Island west of Africa. The others were imprisoned in Manila. Later, the victories of the revolutionists forced the Spanish garrison in Batangas to surrender to the Filipino forces in May 1898.

In 1899, in spite of the gallant resistance of Captain Eliseo Claudio and the Buenafe brothers, Juan, Lucio and Eulalio, Batangas was overrun by the American forces.

On May 2, 1901, civil government was established with Don Jose Villanueva as the first president. The Provincial Capitol and Hospital were inaugurated in 1926.

The Japanese occupied Batangas in January 1942. Aerial bombings ruined Batangas City before the Americans occupied it on March 11, 1945. In 1949, Jose Medrano led an uprising in protest against the alleged fraudulent presidential election returns the same year.

Under Republic Act No. 5495, approved on June 10, 1969, the town of Batangas was created as a chartered city. It was inaugurated on September 25, 1969.

The old and new edifices in Batangas are the Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, the *Iglesia ni Cristo*, the storage tanks of Shell Refining Company in Tabañgao, the Western Philippine College, the Golden Gate College, and the St. Bridget's College.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF BATANGAS

The City of Batangas was created under R.A. 5495 on June 21, 1969.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Batangas

*Upper Portion*

— symbol of the city's recognition of the jurisdiction of the government of the Philippine Republic.

*Left-Hand Corner*

— stands for the refinery in the city which is the source of a greater bulk of its income.

*Shape of the Seal,  
Sun and Eight Rays*

— illustrates the claim of Batangas to have the biggest major port in Southern Luzon.

*Right-Hand Corner*

— shows the more notable produce of Batangas, namely, citrus, horses and fighting cocks.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CALOOCAN

THE CITY OF CALOOCAN, situated three kilometers from Manila Bay and 15 kilometers northwest of the mouth of the Pasig River, is bounded on the east by Quezon City, on the west and north by Malabon, and on the south by the City of Manila.

The city has a land area of 55.8 square kilometers and a population of 274,453 in 1970. It has a high rate of literacy, with Tagalog as the major dialect.

There are a number of factories in Caloocan—light steel fabricators, textile mills, food processing, and handicraft—which offer employment to the residents of the city and the Greater Manila Area. However, rice, corn, vegetables and fruits are raised for local consumption. Piggery is a dominant industry.

The name of the town originated from the Tagalog word “*look*,” meaning “interior” because the place was at the “ends” or “corners” of two old towns, Tondo and Tambobong, the old name of Malabon. However, the Spaniards called the place as “Aromahan” or “Espina,” when it was still a barrio of Tondo.

Caloocan was founded by the Augustinians in 1762. When the Jesuits, who owned the hacienda of Maysilo, were expelled from the Philippines in 1768, the government sold to a mestizo a part of the missionary property which became the main portion of the town. The Recollects took over the spiritual ministration of the place in 1814. A year later, in 1815, Caloocan was created into a municipality. Mariano Sandoval became the first *gobernadorcillo* and Fray Manuel Vaquero, a Recollect father, the first curate.

The Katipunan, a secret society, was discovered by the



Spaniards on August 19, 1896. Four days later, on the 23rd, Andres Bonifacio and about 1,000 members of the Society met in Balintawak, Caloocan, in the yard of Juan A. Ramos, son of Melchora Aquino (“Mother of the *Katipuneros*”), where they tore their *cedulas* to express their willingness to fight, and shouted, “Long live the Philippines,” Long live the Katipunan!

Later, the Filipino forces under Col. Pacheco, captured Caloocan from the Spaniards on June 12, 1898. At the battles of La Loma and Maypajo, General Antonio Luna and his men fought the American forces despite heavy losses. Caloocan was occupied by the Americans on February 10, 1899.

During the Japanese occupation, the town was destroyed by Japanese shelling and bombing. The enemy used the Jesuit College (now occupied by the Manila Central University) as their barracks and the landing field (in Grace Park) as food and ammunition warehouses. The Hospital San Ramon, in the present site of the Nobleza Cigar and Cigarette Factory, was made the headquarters of the Japanese Imperial Forces.

On June 17, 1961, Republic Act No. 3278 created the City of Caloocan.

In honor of Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan, the Bonifacio monument was erected in 1929 on the Manila North Road; where the “First Cry of Balintawak” was held (now under the jurisdiction of Quezon City). In Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora fed and supplied the Katipuneros with food. Considered as the greatest Filipino epic poet in Spanish, Cecilio Apostol, the well-known writer, journalist, lawyer, jurist and linguist, hailed from Sangandaan of this city. Fausto J. Galauran, one of the country’s leading novelists in Tagalog, was also from Caloocan.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF CALOOCAN

The City of Caloocan was created under R.A. 3278 on June 17, 1961.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Caloocan

*Monument*

— the monument of the famous Cry of Balintawak ("Long Live the Philippine Republic"), symbol of the revolt of the Katipunan

against the Spanish Government.

*Colors Red, White and Blue*

— colors of the Philippine Flag.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CAVITE

CAVITE CITY, on a hook-shaped promontory, is bounded on the north by Manila Bay, on the south by Noveleta, on the east by the Cañacao and Bacoar Bays, and on the west by Manila Bay.

The city has a land area of 11.8 square kilometers. It had a population of 75,703 in 1970.

The village named "Cawit" was long known to the Chinese as "Keit."

After the Spanish colonizers settled in Ternate, at the southern part of the province, they later moved northward to the place called Tanguay, now the present site of the city.

During the late decades of the 16th and 17th centuries, the forts of San Felipe, Guadalupe, and Porta Vaga were constructed due to occasional Muslim and Dutch raids.

The town of Cavite was the point of departure and arrival of the galleons that plied between Manila and Acapulco during the Spanish period.

During the British occupation, from 1762 to 1764, Captain Richard Kempenfeldt captured the town of Cavite.

In 1787, Joseph Faute D'Agelet set up an astronomical laboratory in the town. Later, in 1792, an astronomical Observatory was administered by Jose Tello and Juan Vernacci of the Hydrographic Office.

At the Cavite Arsenal, on January 20, 1872, the Cavite Mutiny, an abortive uprising of the native workers and soldiers, in the arsenal led by Sergeant La Madrid, implicated the three Filipino priests, Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora. Two days after, on the 22nd, the Mutiny was crushed

by the relief forces from Manila. It led to the execution of the three priests on February 17, 1872.

During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, the thirteen martyrs of Cavite were arrested, and later executed by the Spanish authorities. On September 12, 1898, after the Battle of Manila Bay, the American forces landed at the arsenal (old Cavite) and later occupied Cavite town. Provost Marshal Grey appointed Jose Martires San Agustin as head of the provisional local government.

In 1901, pursuant to the *Municipal Code* of the Philippine Commission, the districts of the Old Puerto, San Roque and Caridad were merged to form the Municipality of Cavite.

On May 26, 1940, under Commonwealth Act No. 547, the town of Cavite became a chartered city. It also provided that the city would continue as capital of the province.

At the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Cavite in January 1942. Later, during the liberation period, the American Liberation Forces bombed the city, including the forts and the churches of San Telmo, Sto. Domingo, Porta Vaga and San Juan de Dios.

On May 24, 1954, by virtue of Republic Act No. 981, the provincial capital was transferred from Cavite City to Trece Martires City.

A coastal city, Cavite is now one of the important commercial and trading centers of southern Luzon.

The city is now the site of the Naval Shipyard of the Philippine Navy and the Naval Research Development Unit of the National Science Development Board.





*City Seal*



ROSAL  
*City Flower*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF CAVITE

The City of Cavite was created under C.A. 547 on May 28, 1940.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cavite

- Sun and Rays* — adapted from the national flag of the Philippines.
- Monument* — monument of the Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite who revolted against the Spanish Government in 1896.
- Peninsula* — symbol for the city of Cavite.
- Laurel Leaves* — symbolize the victory of our country over the Spanish tyranny which ended on June 12, 1898 date of the declaration of Philippine Independence.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LIPA

THE CITY OF LIPA is in the southwestern Province of Batangas in Luzon. It is bounded on the north by the town of Malvar; on the east by Tiaong; on the south by Rosario and Ibaan; and on the west by the Taal Lake.

Lipa, 27 kilometers from Batangas City and 87 kms. from Manila, had a population of 93,388 as of 1970. Composed of 42 barrios, it occupies a land area of about 215.2 sq. kms.

The city, situated on a 1,000-foot plateau, has a cool invigorating climate throughout the year. The fertile soil of volcanic origin makes suburban Lipa an ideal agricultural area. Its principal products are coffee, rice, corn, coconut, sugar cane, vegetables and fruits, particularly citrus. The animal stocks are cattle, horses, hogs and chicken. Lipa is also famous for fine *jusi* and *piña* cloths.

Originally located in the southeastern part of Lake Bombon, in a native settlement called Tagbakin, Lipa is believed to have been established by Datus Balensusa and Dumangsil, who came with the Bornean chief, Datu Puti, in the middle of the 13th century.

Tagbakin was already well-developed, with well-built houses, an agricultural livelihood, and a flourishing commerce when the Augustinian missionaries led by Fray Hernando de Cabrera, reached the village in 1605. They made the settlement a mission center and named it after its patron saint, San Sebastian. A convent was later constructed which, by 1630, ministered to about 400 natives.

According to a legend, when the image of San Sebastian disappeared from the church, it was later found on a *lipa* tree in a place called Lumang Lipa. Believing that the saint desired to live in that place, the settlement was transferred there and it was called "Lipa."

Barely had they settled when the Taal Volcano erupted, causing the residents to move to the center of the settlement. As the area was small and mountainous, they again transferred to Balete where the village was organized into a municipality in 1702. Geronimo de los Santos was its first *gobernadorcillo*.

In 1754, Taal Volcano again erupted and its lava almost

buried the town of Lipa. The people finally transferred to the present site for fear that another eruption would take place and completely bury the town.

In 1763, after their attack on Manila, the British forces led by Commander Backhouse pursued the Spanish treasurer, Nicolas Echaus, who was in custody of the treasures brought in by the galleon *Filipino* from Mexico. Failing to find the treasure in Lipa, the British plundered the town and burned its church.

From 1814 to 1889, Lipa became one of the most important coffee-producing centers of the world. The period was referred to as the "Coffee Days" of Lipa. Coffee-planting was introduced by Fray Benito Baras, and finally compelled by its *capitan municipal*, Galo de los Reyes. As a reward for the industry and virtue of its inhabitants, the Queen Regent, Cristina II of Spain, bestowed upon the town on October 21, 1887, the title of "*Villa de Lipa*." Unfortunately, a coffee-disease caused by an insect pest, *bagombong*, plagued the coffee plants in Asia, including those in Lipa. "The coffee industry was thus completely destroyed."

Batangas was one of the first eight provinces that rose in arms against Spain when the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896. The following year, the residents of Lipa aided the Filipino revolutionary forces when they sieged the convent where the Spaniards withdrew. The Spanish Commander, Colonel Navas, through the negotiations of Cipriano Kalaw, finally surrendered to General Eleuterio Marasigan. General Miguel Malvar and his staff then established their official residence in the town.

During the Philippine-American War, the American forces occupied the municipality on January 13, 1900.

Lipa also suffered during the Japanese occupation. At the height of enemy atrocities, 1,500 males were herded in pairs and beheaded at the back of the Carmelite nunnery. The town was also razed to the ground—reducing to ashes the mansions of coffee days—when the American Liberation Forces came.

On June 20, 1947, Republic Act No. 162, fathered by Congressman Jose B. Laurel, Jr., created the Municipality of Lipa into a city which was inaugurated in August, 1947. Esteban M. Mayo became its first city mayor.



*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF LIPA

The City of Lipa was created under R.A. 162 on June 20, 1947.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Lipa

- Left Upper Quarter* — represents the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- Right Upper Quarter* — with hammer, anvil and tong, represents labor.
- Lower Portion* — with a farmer and a woman, represents the agricultural economy of the city which underlies virtue and labor (*virtud y trabajo*).
- Year 1887* — represents the year of the Royal Decree of the Regent Queen Maria Cristina of Spain which made the town of Lipa as "Villa de Lipa."



VIOLET  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LUCENA

LUCENA CITY, on the southern part of Quezon Province, is bounded on the north by Mt. Banahaw, on the east and west by the Dumacaa and Iyam Rivers, and on the south by the Tayabas Bay.

With a land area of 68.5 square kilometers, it had a population of 77,006 in 1970.

As a coastal city, Lucena is considered as one of the most important commercial and trading centers of southern Luzon. Coconut and rice are its principal crops. Fishing is also an important source of livelihood of the people.

The Province of Tayabas (now Quezon) was explored by Captain Juan de Salcedo in 1571 and 1572. The town of Tayabas was founded by the Franciscan fathers, Juan de Plasencia and Diego de Oropesa, between 1580 and 1583, with Lucena as one of its barrios.

The Spaniards in the 16th century called the present site of the city "Buenavista," because of its awe-inspiring scenic beauty. Several years later, the name was changed to "Oroquieta." In the 17th century, it was called "Cotta," because forts or *cottas* were built to defend the place from occasional Muslim piratical raids. Finally, on November 5, 1879, the *Orden Real Superior Civil* officially adopted the name "Lucena" in honor of the friar, Father Mariano Granja, who was a native of the town of Lucena in Andalucia, Spain. Granja was responsible for the development of the barrio which became a parish in 1881. Lucena became an independent municipality on June 1, 1882.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the *capitan municipal* of Lucena, Jose Zaballero, led the local revolutionists.

However, a revolutionary government was organized in Lucena by Manuel Arguelles, with Jose Barcelona as president.

After Philippine Independence was proclaimed on June 12, 1898 at Kawit, Cavite, General Miguel Malvar, as Commanding General for Southern Luzon, took over Tayabas Province on August 15, 1898. Don Crisanto Marquez was elected municipal president during the elections held in Lucena under the first Philippine Republic.

Lucena was the site of bloody struggles between the Filipinos and the Americans at the outbreak of the Filipino-American War in 1899. On March 12, 1901, after the Americans established a civil government in the country, the provincial capital was transferred from Tayabas to Lucena.

During the Second World War, Lucena was occupied by the Japanese Imperial Forces on December 27, 1941. The underground resistance movement was so active in Lucena that by January 25, 1945, the Hunters ROTC guerrillas advanced to Lucena and succeeded in driving the Japanese out of the town. Quezon Province was formally liberated by the American Liberation Forces on April 4, 1945.

On June 17, 1961, by virtue of Republic Act No. 3271, Lucena was made a chartered city.

The noted tourist attractions of the city are the Perez Park, named after the famous "Model Governor" of Quezon, Felimon E. Perez; and the Quezon monument, the biggest of its kind in the country, constructed in honor of the most illustrious son of the province, Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF LUCENA

The City of Lucena was created under R.A. 3271 on June 17, 1961.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Lucena

<i>Golden Color</i>	— signifies progress of the city; also <b>Lucena</b> , which shines over all other towns of Quezon.	<i>Beach</i>	— the beautiful Dalahican Beach, a major tourist attraction of the city.
<i>Coconut Tree</i>	— symbol of the coconut industry, major source of livelihood of its people.	<i>Sunshine and Rain</i>	— suggests that the weather is always fine in Lucena, a blessing to its agricultural industry, symbolized by a farmer at work.
<i>Mountain</i>	— the famous Mount Banahaw.		



THE CITY OF MANILA is bounded on the north by Bulacan, on the east by Rizal, on the south by Cavite, and on the west by Manila Bay. With a land area of 38.3 square kilometers, the city had a population of 1,330,788 in 1972.

The word "manila" is derived from two Tagalog words "*may*" meaning "there is," and "*nilad*," a shrub that grew abundantly along the shores of the bay.

Originally, Manila was ruled by two native chieftains, Rajah Matanda and Rajah Soliman. A village at the other side of the Pasig River was ruled by Rajah Lakandula.

Old Manila during the Spanish regime was at the mouth of the Pasig River and was known as Intramuros or Walled City.

On May 8, 1570, Martin de Goiti made his first expedition to Manila. He tried to make negotiations with Rajah Soliman, but he failed.

In April 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the first governor-general of the Philippines, led another expedition. He entered into a formal pact of peace and friendship with the three chieftains.

The Spanish colonization of Manila took effect on May 19, 1571, Legazpi gave it the status of a Spanish city. On June 24, 1571, he created the *cabildo*, or the city council, composed of two *alcaldes* or mayors, and twelve *regidores* or councilors, and a secretary. Through a Royal Decree on June 20, 1574, King Philip II gave the City of Manila the title of *Insigne y Siempre Leal Ciudad* (Distinguished and Ever Loyal City).

In 1595, it was declared as the capital of the Archipelago; and the Royal Decree of March 20, 1596, granted the city its coat of arms.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, internal and external troubles plagued the city government, such as the Chinese uprisings in 1603 and 1609, the Dutch invasions of 1600, 1609 and 1645, the insurrection among the natives in 1660, the assassination of Governor General Fernando Bustamante in 1719, and the British occupation from 1762 to 1763. However, late in the 18th and 19th centuries, progress in public works, communications, water works and transportation marked the period. The city moats and covered ways were constructed in 1787, and the gates of Intramuros in 1781 and 1783. The first telegraph line was opened in 1872, the first cable line in 1880, and the first telephone line in 1890. The first water system (Carriedo Waterworks) was inaugurated in 1882, and the first railway line between Manila and Dagupan in 1892.

On July 7, 1892, the secret revolutionary organization, the *Kataastaasan, Kagalanggalang na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan* (KKK), was organized by Andres Bonifacio in the *arrabal* of Tondo. Manila was one of the first eight provinces which Governor and Captain General Ramon Blanco proclaimed under a state of martial law on August 30, 1896, after the discovery of the *Katipunan*.

The American forces occupied Manila after the defeat of the Spaniards in the so-called "Mock Battle" on August 13, 1898. Since then, Manila was under a military government until August 7, 1901.

With the establishment of the civil government by the Americans, Act No. 183, passed by the Philippine Commission, provided for a new charter for the City of Manila. This was revised by Act No. 2657, passed by the Philippine Legislature on February 24, 1916.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Manila was declared an open city on December 26, 1941. However, the Japanese Imperial Forces continued their air raids that caused the destruction of lives and properties. Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon designated on January 1, 1942, Jorge B. Vargas as "Mayor of the City of Greater Manila." After the Japanese forces occupied the city "blackout" was lifted in Manila.

General Douglas MacArthur led the American Liberation Forces during the liberation of Manila from the Japanese Imperial Forces on February 3 up to the end of the month, in 1945.

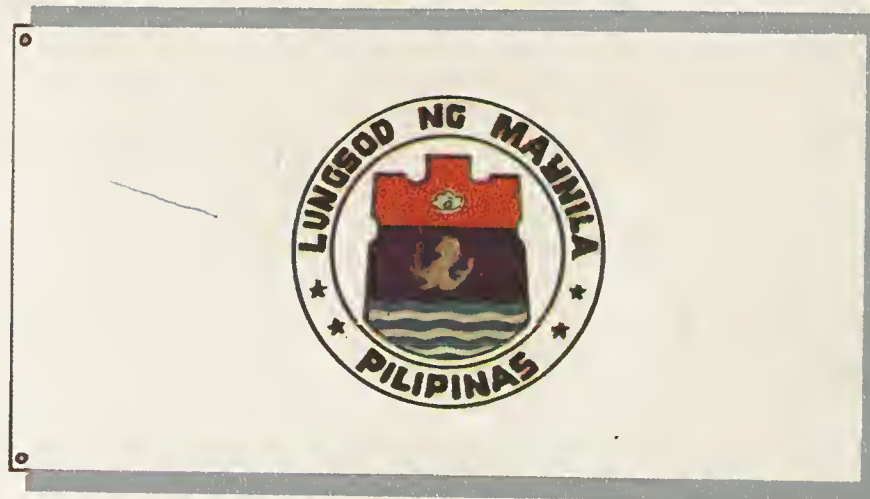
Upon the recognition of Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946, Manila's corporate status was redefined by Republic Act No. 409, known as the Revised Charter of Manila, which reassured the exercise of local autonomy. However, as late as 1951, the mayor and vice-mayor were still appointed by the President of the Philippines, and the councilors were elected by the people of each district. Later, all the officials were elected by the qualified voters of the city.

In 1959, R.A. No. 2264, the Autonomy Act, gave planning powers to the city government. Later, in 1967, R.A. No. 5185, the Decentralization Act, further gave greater autonomy to the City of Manila.

Manila, the bustling metropolis after the war, remains the political, religious, social, cultural, industrial, and commercial center of the Philippines.



*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF MANILA

The City of Manila was created under R.A. 409 on June 18, 1949.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Manila

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Shield Shape</i>     | — signifies the resistance of our ancestors against foreign invasion and domination.            |
| <i>Shell with Pearl</i> | — symbol of Manila, once the common reference of the archipelago, the pearl of the Orient seas. |
| <i>Sea Lion</i>         | — symbol of authority of the city government over its people.                                   |
| <i>Wave Lines</i>       | — represents the Pasig River, a historical and important landmark of the city.                  |
| <i>Four Stars</i>       | — stands for the four (4) congressional districts of the city.                                  |



ILANG-ILANG  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF PASAY

THE CITY OF PASAY is bounded on the north by Manila, on the east by Makati, on the south by Parañaque, and on the west by Manila Bay.

With a land area of 13.9 square kilometers, it had a population of 206,283 in 1970.

The city is noted for its factories and other business and commercial establishments which produce wines, furniture, varnishes, paints, toys, cosmetics, knitted wears and textiles. Many of the inhabitants are small traders and businessmen.

Pasay was claimed to have been named after a Princess who ruled the present site of the city. It was also said that "Pasay" was derived from the Spanish phrase, "*Paso hay*," meaning "There is a pass," because the area used to have a clear path amidst thick cogon grasses.

Pasay, for 149 years (1578-1727), was under the jurisdiction of Sta. Ana de Sapa, a parish district of Manila. It was transferred to the parish district of Malate and remained for 137 years under its jurisdiction.

In 1863, the people of Pasay petitioned the Spanish administration for an independent status, with its own municipal government and a parish church. With the recommendation of the Manila Archbishop, Gregorio Meliton Martinez y Sta. Cruz, their petition was granted.

In 1864, Pasay was changed to Pineda, in honor of Cornelio Pineda, a Spaniard from Singalong, who assisted the inhabitants of Pasay in seeking protection from the colonial government against lawlessness, then rampant in the locality.

During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, the inhabitants of Pasay became active members of the secret revolutionary organization, the *Katipunan*.

On August 4, 1901, a resolution, restoring the name of the town from Pineda to Pasay, was passed by the municipal council and endorsed by the provincial board. On June 21, 1947, Republic Act No. 183 created the municipality into a city and renamed it Rizal. Three years later, on June 7, 1950, Republic Act No. 437 again restored the original name of Pasay.

The city is the site of the Manila International Airport and the Philippine Air Force complex at Nichols Air Base. At Nichols Field, the two Spanish pilots, Gallarza and Loriga, landed after opening a new air route from Madrid to Manila on May 13, 1926.

Today, Pasay City is one of the progressive chartered cities in the country. It has an independent Red Cross unit; a beautiful public library; over twenty educational institutions; forty civic, religious, professional and business organizations; and a number of commercial and rural banks, hospitals, theatres and churches.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

### CITY OF PASAY

City of Pasay was created under R.A. 183 on June 21, 1947.

#### Meaning of the Official Seal of Pasay

*Colors*

— colors of the Philippine flag; signifies that Pasay City is part of the Philippines.

Pasay City.

*Building*

— stands for the old city hall of

*Wings, Wheel and  
Laurel Leaves*

— symbols of the city's progress as a commercial center.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA

THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA, at the edge of the Honda Bay, is located on the eastern coast of central Palawan.

Considered as the second largest city in the Philippines, it has a land area of 2,106.7 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 37,774.

Puerto Princesa is peopled by the Tagalogs and Ilocanos from Luzon, and the settlers from the Visayan Islands. The Tagbanuas, however, are its dominant cultural minority group.

The soil and climate of the city are suited for the cultivation of rice, corn, coconut, banana and citrus. Fishing and mining are the major industries of the province. The other industries are logging, farming, and firewood gathering, and copra, *sawali*, woodcraft, furniture, nipa shingles, and salt making.

Puerto Princesa, formerly called Puerto Yguahit, was founded by the Spanish colonizers on March 4, 1872. In 1882, it was renamed Puerto de la Asuncion in honor of the daughter of Queen Isabela II. When Princess Asuncion died, its name was changed to Puerto de la Princesa.

After the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1898, the Americans occupied Puerto Princesa. In 1902, its municipal government was established. Don Jose Fernandez became the first municipal *presidente*. At the turn of the 20th century, Puerto Princesa was made the capital of Palawan.

On January 1, 1942, Puerto Princesa was bombed by eight Japanese planes. On May 18 of the same year, the Japanese forces occupied the place.

The guerrilla resistance against the Japanese invaders was headed by Dr. Higinio Mendoza, former governor of Palawan. He was captured and later executed with fifteen others in a remote sitio of Puerto Princesa on January 7, 1944.

The city also suffered from the atrocities of the Japanese soldiers in December 1944, when the American prisoners-of-war were herded into an air-raid shelter which was flooded with gasoline and ignited with hand grenades. Those who tried to escape were bayoneted or shot to death.

Puerto Princesa was liberated from the Japanese Imperial Forces on February 28, 1945. On March 4, the municipal government was reestablished.

Under Republic Act No. 5906, Puerto Princesa was made into a chartered city on June 21, 1969. It was inaugurated on January 1, 1970.

The province has mining companies, such as the Palawan Quicksilver Mines, the Perfectual Mining, the Palawan Consolidated, and the ADECOR. It has also a charcoal processing plant where the *bakawan*, from the tree which grows abundantly in the area, are manufactured into charcoal.

Puerto Princesa is well-known for being the site of a government rehabilitation institution for prisoners, the Iwahig Penal Colony. The city is noted for white sandy beaches and river resorts. Its prominent landmarks are the Provincial Capitol Building, the City Hall, the Holy Trinity College, the Provincial Hospital, the Mendoza Park, the Children's Park, the Governor's Residence, and the imposing Puerto Princesa City Cathedral.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**BUTTERFLY ORCHID**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA**

The City of Puerto Princesa was created under R.A. 5906 on June 21, 1969.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Puerto Princesa**

*Peacock*

— represents the *tandican*, rare bird found only in the forests of Palawan, particularly in Puerto Princesa, and symbol of pride and courage.

*Date*

— the date of the foundation of the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF QUEZON

THE CITY OF QUEZON, capital of the Republic of the Philippines, is bounded on the north, east and south by the Province of Rizal, northwest by the City of Caloocan, and west by the City of Manila.

The city, 240 feet above sea level, has a land area of 15,359 hectares and a population 754,452 as of 1970.

In 1939, President Manuel L. Quezon, of the Philippine Commonwealth, purchased 1,527 hectares from the Diliman Estate through the instance and negotiation of Alejandro Roces. The lot was converted into a low-cost housing project called Barrio Obrero (now Kamuning District) for the working class.

On October 12 of the same year, the National Assembly enacted Commonwealth Act No. 502, which created the City of Quezon with 7,335 hectares, one-third of which belongs to the government. The law incorporated Cubao, San Francisco del Monte, Diliman and the sprawling compound of the University of the Philippines. After the city boundaries were determined, President Quezon instructed the architectural adviser of the Commonwealth, Harry T. Frost, assisted by the former Secretary of Public Works during the American regime, A. D. Williams, to blueprint its master plan. A Zoning Ordinance was also drafted by the planning advisers for the proper development of the city.

President Quezon assumed the position of first city mayor from October 12 to November 4, 1939. He appointed Tomas Morato as his successor.

During the Japanese occupation, Quezon City, Manila, and certain towns of the Province of Rizal were merged into the "Greater Manila."

In July 1946, under Administrative Order No. 5, President Manuel Roxas created the Capital Site Committee which, after serious deliberations, favorably decided on Quezon City as the site of the capital. Consequently, President Roxas sent selected architects and engineers to the United States to take advanced studies and make observations on the modern development methods on the proposed capital.

On January 2, 1947, the city was formally reconstituted and restored to its prewar status under Republic Act No. 54, which sponsored by then Congressman Ignacio Santos Diaz.

Later, President Elpidio Quirino reorganized the Committee into the Capital City Planning Commission. The blueprint prepared by the Commission was approved by the President in April 1948. The same year, on July 17, R.A. No. 333 made the City of Quezon as the official capital of the Philippines. The city was inaugurated as National Capital through the laying of a cornerstone at Constitutional Hill on October 22, 1949.

Under R.A. No. 537, dated June 16, 1950, the city charter was revised and the boundaries and limits increased to its present area, of which sixty-two percent are for residential and commercial purposes, fourteen percent for thoroughfares and public utility terminals, fourteen percent for the city government needs, seven percent for public parks and playgrounds, and three percent for agricultural purposes.

The city was divided into Cubao District, with the barrios of Cubao, Murphy, Bagumbayan, Ugong Norte, Ermitaño and Duyan-Duyan; Diliman District I, with the barrios of South Diliman, East Diliman, West Diliman and North Diliman; Diliman District II, with the barrios of San Isidro, Galas and Sociego; San Francisco del Monte District, with the barrios of San Francisco del Monte Proper, San Jose, Balintawak, La Loma and Malamig; University District, with the barrios of Balara and Culiati; and Novaliches District, with the barrios of San Bartolome (Matanda), San Bartolome (Bata), Talipapa, Bagbag, Banlat, Baesa, Balong-Bato, Balintawak, Novaliches Proper and Pasong Tamo.

On top of these, historically, within the limits of the capital city of the Philippines, the cause of freedom spread throughout the islands to break the chains of colonialism and monasticism—that of the first "Cry" by the Great Plebian, Andres Bonifacio, and his Katipuneros on August 23, 1896 in Balintawak where a monument in his honor stands.

Melchora Aquino (popularly known as Tandang Sora) is the official heroine of Quezon City.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



Doña AURORA  
*City Flower*

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SEAL OF QUEZON CITY★

“An equilateral triangle divided azure and gules superimpose the silhouette of the Quezon Memorial Monument argent with the lamp of Knowledge argent over the azure field dexter and the gavel argent over the field of gules sinister. On the apex of the triangle are three mullets or over a border argent.”

“The text LUNGSOD QUEZON and PUNONG BAYAN NG PILIPINAS complete the border arms.”

\* Description issued by the Technical Adviser on Heraldry; meaning not available.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SAN PABLO

SAN PABLO CITY in the southern portion of the Province of Laguna is bounded in the west and northwest by Alaminos (Batangas), north by Calauan (Laguna), east by Rizal and Nagcarlan (Laguna), southeast by Tiaong and Dolores (Quezon), and southwest by Lipa City (Batangas).

It has a land area of 18,778 hectares and a population of 31,399 in 1918, 46,311 in 1939, 70,680 in 1947, 50,435 in 1948, and 75,308 in 1970. Its climate and soil are adapted to lanzones and coconut trees.

The city is connected by national roads to Manila *via* Calauan and Alaminos; to Sta. Cruz, Laguna, *via* Calauan and Rizal; to Batangas *via* Alminos; and to Quezon *via* Tiaong and Dolores. The Philippine National Railways line from Manila to Bicol also passes through the city.

According to a legend, the barrio derived its name from a giant *sampalok* (tamarind) tree in the garden of a selfish couple who drove away a fairy disguised as a beggar asking for some fruit. The following night a storm created a lake in the spot where the tree and house stood.

This barrio at the edge of the lake was originally inhabited by Aetas, Dumagats, and Muslims who emigrated from Mindanao through the Laguna de Bay. It was ruled by a certain Gat Pag-il whose domain comprised the present provinces of Laguna, Batangas and Quezon.

The Augustinian missionaries converted the inhabitants to Christianity and constructed a convent in the mountains of the barrio in 1575. Later, the ecclesiastical administration of San Pablo was transferred to the Franciscans headed by *definitior-general* Fray Hernando Cabrera who built a well-equipped church and convent in 1737.

The town, originally controlled by the provincial authorities of Laguna was placed under the Province of Batangas in 1853.

When Laguna ceded the regions of Infanta and Angono to Tayabas (now Quezon) in 1858, it subsequently acquired San Pablo in 1883.

It was the center of the revolutionary movement under General Miguel Malvar and General Mariano Trias during the Philippine Revolution of 1896. With the assistance of General Malvar's brother, Potenciano, the Filipino Revolutionary Forces quickly took over the reins of the local government.

After the Philippine-American War, a civil government was established in San Pablo in 1902 with Potenciano as its first mayor. He also became a governor of the Province of Laguna from 1912 to 1914.

The Order of St. Paul ecclesiastically administered the town from 1912 to 1918.

Through the determined and untiring efforts of Tomas Dizon, former Congressman and Mayor of San Pablo, Commonwealth Act No. 520, approved May 7, 1940, the municipality of San Pablo was created as a chartered city. It was classified as a second class city under Republic Act No. 4477.

The City of San Pablo is considered as one of the progressive cities of Southern Luzon. Its prosperity is attributed to the production of coconut oil (from copra), a primary export of the country. The city has no less than 35 business establishments and 20 banks and insurance companies aside from the institutions of higher learning, such as the Ateneo de San Pablo, Our Lady of Fatima, Laguna Colleges, and San Pablo City School of Arts and Trade.

The nine "Enchanting Lakes" of the city, with Sampaloc Lake as the biggest, are major tourist attractions. The other beautiful spots are the Doña Leonila Park which was named after the former first lady, Leonila "Inday" Garcia, and the Rizal Avenue which is beautified with monuments and lights, including a miniature park with a fountain and lagoon.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF SAN PABLO

The City of San Pablo was created under R.A. 520 on May 7, 1940.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of San Pablo

*Blue Background*

— represents the seven (7) lakes of the city.

*Coconut Tree*

— signifies that the coconut industry is the main source of income

*Mountain*

*Background*

*Stairway*

of the residents.

— symbolizes that San Pablo City is surrounded by mountains.

— signifies progress of the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TAGAYTAY

TAGAYTAY CITY, situated in the Province of Cavite, on highly elevated land, is bounded on the north and northwest by the towns of Amadeo, Mendez-Núñez and Alfonso (Cavite); on the east by the town of Talisay (Batangas); on the south by the Taal Lake; and on the southwest by the town of Taal (Batangas).

The city has a land area of 74.0 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 10,907.

Basically agricultural, its main product is rice. The other crops—corn, camote, gabi, coffee, pineapple, bananas and vegetables—are sold in the city and in the neighboring towns of Amadeo and Mendez-Núñez.

Tagaytay's invigorating climate, with its exhilarating atmosphere, invites visitors to go southward in an hour's drive from Manila.

Legendarily, the word Tagaytay came from "*Taga*," meaning "to cut" and "*Itay*" which means "Father." A father and son were on a wild boar chase when the animal suddenly turned back and attacked them. The son immediately shouted, "*Taga Itay*," which means "Slash it, Father," when the boar dangerously menaced the old man. Since then, the Spaniards adopted "*Taga Itay*" as the name of the place. Later, the beautiful southern city resort became known as Tagaytay.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Tagaytay was still a wilderness. The place was used as a secret passage by the revolutionists of Batangas and Laguna in going to and

from Cavite.

Tagaytay became a chartered city with the passage of Commonwealth Act No. 338 on June 21, 1938. Originally, it consisted of the barrios of Bagong Tubig, Iruhin, Kaybagay, Mag-asawang Ilat, Maitim Segundo, Mendez Junction, Niugan, Patutong Malaki, Sambong, Silang Rotonda and Sungay.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the 11th Airborne Division of Lieutenant General William Krueger's 8th Army air-dropped military supplies and personnel on the Tagaytay Ridge prior to the liberation of Manila from the Japanese on February 3, 1945. To commemorate the event, in 1951, the officials of Tagaytay City, in coordination with the Philippine Historical Committee, installed a marker at the junction of the Silang-Canlubang-Nasugbu Roads.

The main attractions of the city are the picturesque Taal Lake; Mount Taal (the smallest volcano of the world) located in Taal Lake; the Taal Vista Lodge and the Picnic Grove; the restaurant-hotels overlooking Taal Lake and Taal Volcano; and the Ridge which was formed by the diastrophic action of earlier volcanic eruptions. The elevation of the area has been increased by the periodic eruption of Mount Taal.

The two noted institutions of the city are the Development Academy of the Philippines, which serves as the Government's training ground in personnel management, and the Bethany Chapel, a Protestant mission established by Reverend Leslie Wolfe in 1937.





*City Seal*



DAISY  
*City Flower*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF TAGAYTAY

The City of Tagaytay was created under C. A. 338 on June 21, 1938.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Tagaytay

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Shape of the Seal</i>            | — adapted from the seal of the Republic.  |
| <i>Red, Blue and Sun Background</i> | — depicts the highly nationalistic spirit of the city populace; also signifies the fact that the city was one of the eight provinces that participated in the Philippine Revolution.  |
| <i>Foreground</i>                   | — pictures Taal Lake and volcano. The lush vegetations and the rolling mountain ranges signify the fertility of the soil and the invigorating climate. The cliff with a building atop signifies the liberation of the city during World War II. |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TRECE MARTIREZ

TRECE MARTIRES, by virtue of Republic Act No. 981, approved on May 24, 1954, became a chartered city through the determined and untiring efforts of a father-and-son teamwork, Congressman Justiniano S. Montano, Sr. and Governor Delfin N. Montano. They worked hard to build the capital city of Cavite Province, called Trece Martires, which was officially declared as such as on September 5, 1955.

The city was named in honor of the Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite who were executed by the Spanish authorities on September 12, 1896, on suspicion of complicity in the overthrow of the Spanish government. The Spanish authorities considered them rebels or *insurrectos* who deserved a "traitor's death." To the Filipino people, however, they died a "hero's death." These brave men whose names now illuminate the pages of our Hall of Fame are Luis Aguado, Eugenio Cabezas, Feliciano Cabuco, Agapito Conchu, Maximo Gregorio, Maximo Inocencio, Antonio San Agustin, Jose Lallana, Severino Lapidario, Victoriano Luciano, Alfonso de Ocampo, Francisco Osorio and Hugo Perez.

The land area of the city consists of 39,176 square kilometers, from the cleared and levelled wilderness until its expansion in 1954 on the higher elevated portions of the Cavite highlands.

Trece Martires City has a modern city hall, a hospital, a public market, and a park. Its modern roads, streets and drainage are first class.

Its water is abundant, originating from the surrounding brooks, and purified through the Tres Crucis Dam.

To provide further convenience to the city residents, the

CEDA or the Cavite Electric Development Authority provides electricity for lighting purposes and power for domestic industries.

In 1960, the population was 4,422 and in 1970, it increased to 6,200 inhabitants. Coconut industry appears as the main source of income of the residents. Many people settled in this city such that in a few years business and trading activities picked up in volume and value. Many restaurants were opened since the city was inaugurated.

The rapid progress of the city is due to its healthful climate. The surrounding countryside with small productive farms, provides the immediate needs of the people. Since it is far from the shorelines and the heavy traffic of the national highways of Cavite, it is "dust-free," making these factors an inducement to people who wish to settle in Trece Martires City.

The usual thirst for knowledge and zeal for education are very evident in this city which has various elementary schools and one high school.

Its populace are religious—the only city in the Philippines we know of that is almost 100% Catholic. The town church, with St. Jude Thaddeus as the patron saint, was built in 1960.

Led by Delfin N. Montano, Provincial Governor of Cavite, who was the *ex officio* City Mayor, its elected officials and appointed employees are reputed as able, active, capable, hard-working and dedicated servants.

Trece Martires City is a monument in itself to the Filipino struggle for freedom and independence, especially to Cavite whose sons played an important role in the war for independence against colonial Spanish administration.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

### CITY OF TRECE MARTIRES

The City of Trece Martires was created under R.A. 981 on May 24, 1955.

#### Meaning of the Official Seal of Trece Martires

*Building*

— the Provincial Capitol, seat of the Provincial Government.

*Thirteen Stars*

— stands for the Thirteen (13) Martyrs, for whom the City was named.

*Eight Rays of the Sun* — represent the eight provinces which revolted against the Spanish Government.

*Map Outline*

— the geographical location of Trece Martires City.

*Laurel Leaves*

— symbol of the honors bestowed the thirteen Martyrs.

*Brown Color*

— stands for the soil which means that the City is mostly agricultural.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF IRIGA

THE CITY OF IRIGA, at the foot of Sumagang Hills, stretches on the region near the western side of Mount Iriga in the Province of Camarines Sur. It is at the crossroads—where the Baao-Nabua-Bato and Buhi roads intersect—and in the middle of the road from Naga to Legazpi Cities, close to the Camarines Sur-Albay boundary. The city has a land area of 119.6 square kilometers.

Iriga had 19,297 souls in 1903, 24,145 in 1918, 31,005 in 1939, 42,049 in 1948, and 75,439 in 1960. In 1970 its population increased to 77,286 (14,606 in the urban area and 62,680 in the rural places).

In 1570, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi sent the second exploring party under Captain Andres Ibarra, with Fray Alonso Jimenez as chaplain, to search for provisions in Luzon. Following the route of Captain Luiz Enrique de Guzman, leader of the first exploration, Ibarra sailed from Panay Island to the islands of Masbate, Ticao and Burias, and pushed further from Kamalig *rancheria* to settlements bordering Bato Lake in the Bicol region. The place was then known to the *Indios* as the barangays of Kalilingo and Bua (later called Bato and Nabua, respectively).

Bua, meaning “coconut bud” was already a flourishing village. It was located on a low marshy terrain which was easily flooded. The natives therefore transferred to the highland settlement of Nabua, near the Sumagang Mountain (Mt. Iriga). The settlement was also inundated during the rainy season; hence, its curate, Father Felix de Huertas, advised the people to go to a higher elevation where they could plant and raise crops.

“*Iraga sa Sumagang*” which literally means “there is land in Sumagang” thus became a byword whenever the seasonal floods occurred—because the people always sheltered at the nearby Sumagang Hills. The word “*Iraga*,” referring to the

place, was later corrupted and finally accepted as Iriga, the settlement which became a barrio of Nabua in 1578.

In 1585, the Spanish administrator had already established a colony in Iriga with the first church and convent built of wood. Through the efforts of Fathers Pablo de Jesus and Bartolome Ruiz, the barrio was converted into a town in 1683 and St. Anthony of Padua was chosen as the patron saint.

During the incumbency of *Capitan* Martin Mendoza, in 1710, the barrios of San Nicolas, San Agustin, San Isidro and San Antonio de Abad were created.

Iriga was under the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical authorities of Nueva Caceres (now Naga City). Its first church was reconstructed several times: in 1727 after it was burned; in 1841, after it was destroyed by fire and typhoon; in 1862, renovated with galvanized iron roofings; in 1886, repaired; and in 1892, rebuilt the tower with wood and iron.

The town had then four municipal roads: the first leading to Nabua, the second to Baao, the third to Buhi, and the fourth to Polangui, Albay. The only route to Nueva Caceres was via the Barit River.

In 1900, after the construction of a railroad line, Iriga became a booming town of trade and commerce.

Republic Act No. 5261, dated June 15, 1968, converted the Municipality of Iriga into a chartered city, the third in the Bicol region. Its inaugural ceremony was attended by the President of the Philippines, Ferdinand E. Marcos, on September 3, 1968.

Iriga City consists of 26 large barrios on classified forestal and timber lands, although the people had long cleared a large portion of the nearby forest. Today, the city is still a prosperous center of the copra and abaca trades in the region.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF IRIGA

The City of Iriga was created under R.A. 5261 on June 14, 1968.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Iriga



ROSE  
*City Flower*

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Half-open Coconut or Bua</i> | — symbolizes the history of Iriga City.   |
| <i>Full Grown Tree</i>          | — stand for Nabua ( <b>Bua</b> ), and Bato  |
| <i>Two Smaller Trees</i>        | and Iriga, formerly small dependencies of Nabua.  |
| <i>Coconut</i>                  | — the basic product of the locality.  |
| <i>Years 1573 and 1683</i>      | — the settlement was established as a barrio of Nabua; the Spanish authorities recognized it only in 1638.    |
| <i>Mountain</i>                 | — Mt. Iriga or Mt. Sumagang.  |
| <i>Eroded Hill</i>              | — accounts for the phrase <b>I-riga sa Sumagang</b> across the seal, which means "there is land in Sumagang." |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LEGAZPI

LEGAZPI CITY lies on the eastern coast of the Bicol Peninsula and occupies 25,880 hectares. Bounded on the north by the municipality of Santo Domingo, east, by the Gulf of Albay, south, by the province of Sorsogon, and west, by the Municipality of Daraga, it consists of thirty barrios inhabited by 83,826 people in 1970.

Early in the 13th century, Datus Balensusa and Dumangsil, two of the ten Bornean datus led by Datu Puti, went from Panay to Laguna and the Bicol region. In 1587, Captain Esteban de Manchaca reached the barangay Sawañgan headed by a descendant of Dumangsil, Gat Ibal, whom he vanquished by superior arms.

The inhabitants were easily converted by Fr. Francisco de Sta. Ana, a Franciscan missionary who built the first chapel of bamboo and nipa. Under the spiritual ministrations of Cagsaua since 1578, Sawañgan was elevated to *visita regular* in 1605, and established as an independent town in 1616. The town was made the capital of the province of *Partido Ibalon*, the name of which was later changed to Albaybay and shortened to Albay.

For two centuries the capital town was occasionally rocked by the minor eruptions of Mayon Volcano and the attacks of Muslim pirates and the Dutch. On February 1, 1814, the catastrophic eruption of Mayon buried Cagsaua, Budiao, Camalig and Bulusan, and partially destroyed Sawañgan.

Fr. Pedro Licup thus urged the residents of Sawañgan to move to Makalaya (now Taysan). Several years later, Sawañgan was restored and called Binanuahan (Banuang-gurang). It was made a *visita tributaria* of Taytay, and the combined towns was named *Albay Nuevo* (*Bagumbayan*). The residents of Binanuahan, however, objected to the annexation.

On July 17, 1856, Ramon Montero of the *Gobierno Superior de las Islas Filipinas* signed a decree which created the *visita* of *Pueblo Viejo*, out of Binanuahan, with Lamba, Rauis and Bigaa. In another decree, Montero named the town as Legazpi which was inaugurated on October 22 of the same year.

The port of Legazpi had served as anchorage of ships sailing to *Nueva España* (Mexico) in the later part of the 16th century. In 1873, it was made a port of entry by a Royal Decree earlier issued in Madrid on May 18, 1872 and later promulgated by Governor Juan Alamenos y de Vivar on December 3, 1874.

In 1894, the Spanish Minister of *Ultramar* promulgated a decree creating an *ayuntamiento* composed of the towns of Legazpi, Albay and Daraga. This was resented by the residents of Daraga.

On September 22, 1898, the Civil Governor of Albay, Angel Bascaran y Federic and the Spanish residents evacuated Albay. Subsequently, a revolutionary *junta* was organized by Don Anacleto Solano who later turned over the command to General Vicente Lucban, General-in-Chief of Operations of the revolutionary government in the southern regions.

By January 23, 1900, the American forces arrived in Legazpi and defeated the *Sandatahanes* led by Generals Vito Belarmino and Jose Ignacio Paua at the Battle of San Rafael Bridge.

The American military government reestablished Legazpi, Albay and Daraga as independent towns. In 1908, the Philippine Assembly again merged the three towns to create the *Municipio de Albay* which became the capital of the province. Again bitterly opposed, the Philippine Assembly separated Daraga from the capital town in 1922.

On December 12, 1941, the Kimura Detachment of the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Legazpi while the Philippine-American troops were 150 miles away. The provisional military government of the Japanese was terminated upon the arrival of the American liberation forces on April 1, 1945.

On June 18, 1948, Republic Act No. 306 created the City of Legazpi and again incorporated Daraga as one of its districts, effective upon its proclamation on December 15, 1948. Bitter feelings again prevailed in Daraga; so on June 8, 1954, R.A. No. 993 was passed. The law repealed R.A. No. 306 and created the Municipalities of Legazpi and Daraga.

Finally, on June 12, 1959, Legazpi was again made a city under R.A. No. 2234. It became the capital of the Province of Albay and its seat of government.

Today, Legazpi City is the commercial center of the Bicol region. Its rich and volcanic soil is mostly planted with coconut, abaca and rice. With one of the busiest ports in the country and a majestic Mayon Volcano, the city rightfully deserves the title of "The Queen City of Southern Luzon."





*City Seal*



**CITY OF LEGAZPI**

*City Flag*

The City of Legazpi was created under R.A. on June 18, 1948.

#### Meaning of the Official Seal of Legazpi

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Shape of the Seal</i>                 | — crown shape which symbolizes power.   |
| <i>Colors Red, White and Blue</i>        | — colors of the national flag.  |
| <i>Rising Sun</i>                        | — symbol of progress  |
| <i>Mayon Volcano</i>                     | — denotes the beauty and grandeur of Mount Mayon.   |
| <i>Sea, Wharf, Steamer and Pier</i>      | — signify that Legazpi is a famous seaport.   |
| <i>Bundles of Palay and Coconut Tree</i> | — connotes agricultural industry as the chief source of its income, copra is the leading export product of Legazpi. |
| <i>Wing, Wheel and Anchor</i>            | — symbols of air, land and water transportation terminals in the city.  |



**GARDENIA**  
*City Flower* —



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF NAGA

NAGA CITY, in the Province of Camarines Sur, is surrounded by rich agricultural plains, forest reserves and fishing grounds. It is bounded in the north by the municipalities of Magarao and Calabanga; east and northeast, by Pili and Goa; south, by Milaor; and west and northwest, by Camaligan and Canaman. The land area of the city is about 77.5 square kms. and its population was 79,746 as of 1970.

Naga is said to have been named after the Bikol word "*naga*" for "*narra* trees" or, as some believed, for "wild ducks," which were then both in abundance in the place. The accepted version, however, is the *narra* trees, a symbol in the present coat-of-arms of the city.

The history of Naga City dates back to the time when Camarines was explored by Captain Juan de Salcedo in 1573. After his discovery of the Paracale gold mines, Salcedo realized the great potentials of the territory. He returned and conquered the region. Finally, he pacified the natives and established garrisons. Later, during the administration of Governor General Francisco de Sande (1575-1580), Captain Pedro de Chavez continued the pacification of the natives.

In 1575, Chavez founded the City of Caceres near the flourishing native village of Naga, the first barangay which, as a commercial *pueblo*, grew in size and importance. The city was named after Governor Sande's native City of Caceres in Spain. By 1591, the capital of Camarines province was already Caceres City.

The City of Caceres was, however, changed to Nueva Caceres "with a city government as prescribed by Spanish law" in order to distinguish the city in Camarines from that of the city in Spain.

From 1570, there was only one province of Camarines. In 1829, the region was divided into two—Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur. Camarines Sur included the district of Nueva Caceres.

For hundred of years, it was the religious center in the Bicol region. The seat of the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres was established as a bishopric by virtue of a Bull signed by

Pope Clement VIII on August 14, 1595. Its jurisdiction extended from the Bicol region to Quezon Province and the neighboring islands.

The Spanish authorities in Nueva Caceres governed with a reign of terror after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in August, 1896. On mere suspicion, they arrested, jailed, tortured, and exiled or executed prominent citizens and *ilustrados*. Among them were the "Fifteen Martyrs of Bicolandia":

Because of the need of arms and organization, Nueva Caceres openly revolted two years after the outbreak of the revolution. On the 17th and 18th September, 1898, the Filipino soldiers of the *Guardia Civil* led by Corporals Felix Plazo and Elias Angeles, in a surprise attack, killed many Spanish officials and soldiers. Having been defeated, the Spanish governor, Don Vicente Zaidin, signed the capitulation terms on the 18th of September at the historic San Francisco Church where they earlier sought refuge. Subsequently, a Revolutionary Government was established by Brigadier General Vicente Lukban.

Two years later, on February 22, 1900, the Americans entered Nueva Caceres. Although a military government was already established by the Americans, many of the residents continued their resistance and organized guerrilla movements. Civil government was established in the Bicol region in April, 1901. Later, in 1919, the City of Caceres became a mere municipality, officially known as Naga.

The Kimura Detachment of the Japanese Imperial Forces entered Naga on the 18th of December, a few days after the outbreak of World War II in 1941. However, on May 1, 1942, the guerrilla forces successively attacked the Japanese garrison and controlled the town until their surrender on the 29th. With the coming of the American Liberation Forces, the guerrillas attacked the Japanese garrison in Naga on April 9, 1945 until the town was liberated on the 27th.

On June 18, 1948, Republic Act No. 305 created the City of Naga, which was inaugurated on December 16 of the same year.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF NAGA

The City of Naga was created under R.A. 305 on June 18, 1948.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Naga

#### *Dates*

— 1573 was the beginning of recorded history of the city; 1575 was the founding of the Nueva Caceres; and 1947 was the year of inauguration of Naga City.

#### *Landmarks*

— Mount Isarog, the Bicol River and San Miguel Bay.

#### *Castle and Cross*

— signifies that the city was the seat of military and civil government and religious authority.

#### *Eagle Head*

— symbol of the American rule.

#### *Green and Blue Background*

— represents the Oriental culture and paganism of the natives before the coming of the westerners.

#### *Red Background*

— symbolizes the bloodshed by the Spanish colonizers and the natives.



NARRA FLOWER  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BACOLOD

BACOLOD CITY, situated on the northwestern part of the island of Negros, is bounded by the Guimaras Strait on the west, the Municipality of Talisay on the north, the Municipality of Murcia on the east, and Bago City on the south.

The city has a land area of 156.1 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 187,300. It has a cool and invigorating climate with abundant rainfall. The majority of the people speak Ilongo and the rest speak Cebuano. The city has a high percentage of literacy.

Bacolod, the "sugar city of the Philippines," is one of the most progressive and elite cities in the country. Along its highway, sugarcane plantation is a typical scene; coconut and rice are also grown. The people are engaged in livestock, fishing and pottery.

Bacolod was derived from the Ilongo word "*bacolod*," meaning "stonehill," since the settlement was founded in 1770 on a stone hill area, now the district of Granada and the site of the Bacolod-Murcia Milling Company.

Due to the Muslim raids in 1787, Bacolod was transferred towards the shoreline. The old site was called "*Daan-banwa*," meaning "old town."

In 1849, by order of Governor General Claveria, through Negros Island Governor Manuel Valdeviso Morquecho, Bacolod was made the capital of the Province of Negros. Bernardino de los Santos became the first *governadorcillo* and Fray Julian Gonzaga the first parish priest.

The success of the Revolution in Bacolod was attributed to the low morale of the local Spanish detachment—due to its defeat in Panay and Luzon and to the psychological warfare of Generals Aniceto Lacson and Juan Araneta. In 1897, a battle in Bacolod was fought in Matabang River. A year later, on November 5, 1898, the Negrenso "*Revolucionarios*," armed with knives, bolos, spears, and rifle-like "*nipa*" stems, and pieces of "*sawali*" mounted on carts, captured the *convento* where Colonel de Castro y Cisneros, well-armed "*casadores*" and platoons of civil guards, surrendered. Two days later, on the 7th, most of the revolutionary army gathered together to establish a Provisional Revolutionary Junta and to confirm the elections of Aniceto Lacson as president, Juan Araneta as war-delegate, as well as the other officials.

On March 1899, the American forces led by Colonel James G. Smith occupied Bacolod, the revolutionary capital of the Provisional Republic of Negros.

Bacolod City was occupied by the Japanese forces on May 21, 1942. Three years after, it was liberated by the American forces on May 29, 1945.

By virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 326, enacted by the National Assembly, the City of Bacolod was created on June 18, 1938, with Alfredo Montelibano as the first City Mayor.

Some of the tourist attractions in Bacolod City are the San Sebastian Cathedral (the oldest building in the city), the Bacolod Public Plaza, the Capitol Lagoon and Building, the Plaza Mart, the Sta. Fe Resort, the Taytay Beach, and the pottery in Pahanocoy.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF BACOLOD

The City of Bacolod was created under R.A. 326 on June 18, 1938.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bacolod

<i>Centerpiece</i>	— hand holding a lighted torch is symbolic of the light of reason, the oval represents an egg, symbolic of unhatched dreams.		
<i>Left Upper Quadrant</i>	— the salakot and the talibong.	<i>Sugar Cane</i>	— garcane, primary produce of the city as well as of the province.
<i>Right Upper Quadrant</i>	— the carabao and plow, farm animal and implement, respectively.	<i>Tractor</i>	— main crop and primary export product of Bacolod City and Negros Occidental.
<i>Lower Left Quadrant</i>	— sugarcane mill, processor of su-		— depicts the progress of agriculture in the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BAGO

BAGO CITY is situated at the northwestern part of Negros Occidental—bounded by Bacolod City in the north, San Carlos City in the east, Guimaras Strait in the west and the Municipality of Valladolid in the south. It has a land area of 37,750 hectares. In 1882, there were 11,565 inhabitants and in 1885, 14,903. By 1960, its population was 58,834 and in 1970, 71,653. The city is at the mouth of the Bago River where vast sugar haciendas are found. Its name was taken from this river, "Bago." Aside from sugar cane, the other agricultural products are corn, rice, tobacco, hemp and copra.

Bago has a cool and invigorating climate and abundant rainfall. The soil is of limestone origin and well adapted to sugar cane. Together with Bacolod, Talisay, San Carlos, Ilog and Binalbagan, they are the centers of the sugar industry in the province.

Only Ilog and Binalbagan were the known native settlements prior to the arrival of the Spaniards in 1565. Incidentally, the Spaniards called the island "Negros" because they saw black men on their arrival.

After the Spaniards conquered the island, Negros was placed under the jurisdiction of the town of Arevalo, Iloilo. Later, the people from Iloilo crossed the Guimaras Strait and settled on the coast of the Bago River.

Bago was founded in 1575. Later, the settlers petitioned the Spanish government to declare their village as a town. Some of the petitioners were Fernando Villanueva, Manuel Sitchon, Gregorio Varela, Paulino Torres, Jacinto Araneta, Pedro Advincula, Clemente Celis and Mariano Gonzaga. All of them were from the town of Molo, Iloilo, except Pedro Advincula of Bohol and Clemente Celis of Leyte.

On January 20, 1848, Governor General Don Narciso Claveria entrusted to the Recollects the evangelization of the island of Negros. A year after, Fray Joaquin Soriano, Father Provincial of the Recollects, sent missionaries to Negros. They formally took over the spiritual ministration of the town of Bago with Fr. Balbino Gonzaga as its first parish priest. In 1882, Fr. Juan Bta. Pereda de la Corzanilla became the parish priest of Bago, and in 1885, Fr. Vicente Abrigo.

The Recollect missionaries introduced the cultivation of sugar cane, abaca, coffee and tobacco in this island. In 1854, the sugar industry tremendously prospered in Bago. In 1856, a great influx of immigrants began to arrive in Occidental Negros, and since then large haciendas were created. The primitive wooden sugar mills were replaced by steam and hydraulic machineries from Europe. By 1864, seven steam machineries operated in the towns of Bago, Bacolod and Minuluan. In 1865, many hydraulic mills were also installed in Bago, Minuluan and Bacolod. These mills were capable of milling 100 piculs of sugar in twelve hours.

Bago became the capital of Negros Occidental at the outbreak of the revolution in Negros on November 5, 1898. Under the leadership of General Juan Araneta, the greatest son of this town, the Republic of Negros was proclaimed in Bago. During the bloody clash between the rebels and the Spanish forces, the Filipino soldiers at Bago outwitted the Spanish forces under Colonel Isidro de Castro. The Spanish troops surrendered to the revolutionists at Bacolod. A revolutionary provincial government was then established with Juan Araneta as acting governor. Under this government, Occidental and Oriental Negros, (divided in 1890) were again united until the establishment of a civil government in Occidental Negros on April 20, 1901.

American sovereignty was accepted in Occidental Negros without much resistance. Jose de Luzuriaga, a distinguished and patriotic Filipino, assured safety to the American troops in Negros, under Gen. James F. Smith. However, on May 19, 1900, a noted outlaw, Dionisio Papa, popularly known as Papa Isio, ordered the beheading of any person who sided with the Americans.

Like other towns in the Philippines, Bago suffered the same hardships during the Japanese occupation. On May 20, 1942, Japanese troops occupied the Island of Negros. Major Salvador Abcede, leader of the resistance unit in Negros Occidental, established the civil government in Negros on December 16, 1942, and Alfredo Montelibano was appointed military governor.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF BAGO

The City of Bago was created under R.A. 4382 on June 19, 1965.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bago

<i>Monument</i>	— monument of Capitan Don Juan Araneta urging his co-Bogueños to fight against the oppression and tyranny of the Spaniards.
<i>Mountain</i>	— Mount Canla-on which marks the city boundaries.
<i>Rice Stalk and Sugar Cane Plant</i>	— represent the two major crops of the city.
<i>Golden Background</i>	— symbolic of the high aspirations of the people of Bago City.



ROSE  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CADIZ

CADIZ, situated on the northern tip of Negros Island, is the sixth city of Negros Occidental. It is bounded on the east by Sagay, on the west by Manapla and Victorias, on the south by Silay City, and on the north by the Visayan Sea.

It has a land area of 516.5 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 124,108. Majority of the people in Cadiz City speak Hiligaynon.

The city is the center of the fishing industry in the northern part of Negros Island. Its soil of limestone origin is adapted to sugarcane; hence, vast haciendas surround the metropolitan area. It also produces lumber.

By the decree of Don Narciso Claveria on June 20, 1848, the Island of Negros was entrusted to the Recollect Fathers who founded Cadiz, one of the towns in the province.

Cadiz, originally called Hitalon, was later named Valdevieso, after the first Spanish governor of Negros Occidental, Manuel Valdevieso Morquecho, whose seat of government was at Himamaylan. Later, the Spanish settlers renamed it Cadiz after seeing the similarity in location with its progressive counterpart, the seaport city of Cadiz in Spain.

In 1878, Cadiz became a municipality and its first *gobernadorcillo* was Antonio Cabahug, a settler from Mandaue, Cebu. The town officials were controlled by the *cura fraile* who gave orders and imposed punishments to all inhabitants.

In 1894, the members of the municipal tribunal were elected for the first time, and Gil Lopez Villanueva became the town's first elected official.

In Cadiz, the Revolution was headed by Francisco Abejarde. He caused the surrender of the civil guards, and the capture of the *cura fraile* and the Spanish residents who were detained in the house of *Capitana* Imang Cabahug de los Santos. Capt. Tomas Belmonte with *Mang* Kiko and Cirilo Samontina also headed a group who peacefully succeeded in confiscating rifles, muskets, "*escopetas*," and revolvers from the Spaniards.

On November 26, 1898, the leaders of Negros decided to form the Cantonal Government of Negros to replace the provisional government. By December 19, 1898, a general election was held for the legislative assembly, with Jose Vito representing Cadiz.

Later, the American government abolished the *Estado Cantonal de Negros* and created a government with Melecio Severino and James Smith as civil and military provincial governors, respectively.

On August 26, 1918, the statue of Jose Rizal in the public plaza of Cadiz was inaugurated by Provincial Governor Matias Hilado.

The Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Cadiz in May 1942. Resistance movements were organized in the Island of Negros by the end of August 1942, and Lt. Fidel Soliven headed the group in Cadiz. By the end of April 1945, Cadiz was one of the towns liberated by the American Liberation Forces.

By the virtue of Republic Act No. 4894, Cadiz became a city on June 17, 1967.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## **CITY OF CADIZ**

The City of Cadiz was created under R.A. 4894 on June 17, 1967.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Cadiz**

#### *Whale*

— symbol of the dozen whales which drifted ashore of the city before it was made a chartered city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ILOILO

THE CITY OF ILOILO is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Pavia, on the south and east by the Iloilo Strait, and on the west by the Municipality of Oton.

The city, with a land area of 56.0 square kilometers, is composed of the districts of (1) Molo or Parian, (2) Arevalo or Villa, (3) the city proper, (4) La Paz, (5) Jaro, and (6) Mandurriao. In 1970, there were 206,692 residents in Iloilo City.

It has one of the finest harbors in the country. At the request of the government of the Philippines, a Royal Order authorized the opening of the Port of Iloilo on September 29, 1855. Consequently in 1856, Iloilo was opened to foreign trade. The winding waterfront (named Muelle Loney after Nicholas Loney, a philanthropist), and the nearby Guimaras Island protect the ships and provide safe anchorage. The city has also a domestic airport.

Iloilo, the town and province, is written as "Hilo, Ilo, Iloilo, Ilongilong, Iloylo, Yloilo, Ylong-Ylong, Iloylo," and "Ylo Ylo" in the book, *The Philippine Islands*. It has no meaning in Spanish; but in the Ilongo dialect, it means "orphan" and in the Malayan language, it refers to "nose."

The city began as a Malayan settlement around Batiano River (now Iloilo River). During the 13th century, Datu Puti and his wife Pinagpangan, together with nine other datus in ten large sailboats called "barangays" anchored at San Joaquin, Iloilo, in the southwestern part of Panay (Madya-as). They negotiated for the purchase of land where they could live in peace under a just ruler. Datu Puti returned to Borneo and Datu Sumakwel, considered the wisest among the others, succeeded him. He divided the island into Hamtik (now Antique), under Datu Sumakwel; Aklan, under Datu Bangkaya; and Irong-Irong, under Datu Paiburong.

In 1565, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi settled in Cebu. He then sent advance parties to the old Iloilo towns of Halawod (Dumangas) and Ogtong (Oton). Due to acute food shortage and the Portuguese threat on Cebu in 1569, Legazpi moved to Panay. In 1581, the first settlement in Iloilo was established

by Gonzalo Ronquillo in the town of Arevalo.

Between the 16th and the 17th centuries, Iloilo greatly suffered from Muslim raids and Dutch incursions. The Spaniards thus erected several forts in Oton, Arevalo and Iloilo. Governor General Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera ordered the evacuation of Arevalo, Molo and Oton towards La Punta for safety.

In 1688, the provincial capital was transferred from Arevalo to the town of Iloilo. Later on February 7, 1890, the city government of Iloilo was established under the Becerra Law of 1889. By 1896, the city was authorized to have a coat-of-arms with the inscription "*La Muy Leal y Noble Ciudad de Iloilo*."

During the Philippine-American War, when General Marcus Miller arrived in Iloilo on December 28, 1898, the Spanish garrison had already surrendered to General Martin Delgado. The Iloilo *revolucionarios* fortified the harbor and the San Pedro Fort blocked the river entrance, and barricaded the streets. On February 11, 1899, the American warships shelled the city defense. When the enemy forces landed, Delgado' troops set fire to the city and withdrew to its outskirts.

Iloilo City was reverted to the status of a municipality on April 11, 1901. On November 8, 1936, Commonwealth Act No. 158 amended C.A. No. 57 (dated October 20, 1936), which established the City of Iloilo. The new law incorporated the towns of La Paz, Jaro, Mandurriao, Molo and Arevalo. The inauguration of the city was held on August 25, 1937.

Iloilo was also bombed and attacked by the Japanese Imperial Forces. On April 16, 1942, the Japanese forces occupied and established a military government in Iloilo.

On April 29, 1955, President Ramon Magsaysay signed into law Republic Act No. 1209 which provided the executive and the legislative members of the city to be elective. The bill was authored by Rodolfo T. Ganzon who became the first elected mayor of Iloilo City.

Iloilo City, a quiet, refined and cultured place, is usually referred to as "the aristocratic city of the South."





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF ILOILO

The City of Iloilo was created under C.A. 158 on November 8, 1936.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Iloilo

<i>Structure</i>	— Fort San Pedro, as viewed from one side of the Iloilo River Bank.		a group of <b>Moros</b> who planned to invade the city of Iloilo.
<i>Spanish Text</i>	— the words “La Muy Leal Y Noble Ciudad de Iloilo” mean The Ever Local and Noble City of Iloilo.”	<i>Lion</i>	— means that Iloilo was formerly under the Spanish rule.
<i>Mountain</i>	— Bondolan mountain.	<i>Eagle</i>	— symbol of the merican Regime.
<i>Four Small Stars</i>	— represent the stars that misled	<i>Three Big Stars</i>	— represent Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LA CARLOTA

LA CARLOTA, which grew from a small village to an industrial and agricultural city in Negros Occidental, lies on the north-western irregular coast of Negros Island. Facing the Panay Gulf in the west, near the port of Pulupandan and nearest the coastal areas of San Enrique, it sprawls inland over the fertile limestone plains and hilly regions which are at points broken by small streams and big rivers. The territory includes the areas around and between Pontevedra and La Carlota—extending south and east to the Municipality of Castellana, and to the north of most of the haciendas. It is bounded in the north-west coast by the Municipality of Valladolid, and on the south-west by the rice lands along the San Enrique River. Topographically, the city is narrow near the coast which gradually spreads out triangularly—extending 20 kilometers—to the foothills where it is as broad as its length. The city proper is 10 kilometers inland and on fairly level ground of a great number of haciendas. The city has a land area of 137.3 square kms.

Originally, La Carlota was an agricultural settlement. The people grew rice for consumption, and cacao and tobacco for export. Like other coastal villages, La Carlota suffered from the marauding Suluans against whom the Negrenese were unable to put up an effective defense.

On June 20, 1848, through a decree of Governor General Narciso Claveria, La Carlota became one of the towns in Negros Province to be entrusted to the Recollect Fathers. These missionaries introduced the cultivation of sugar cane. In 1856, during the term of Governor Emilio Saravia, Negros was made into a politico-military region. Settlers then increased, such that by 1860 the town was organized into an economic and political community. Haciendas were opened and machineries were introduced in the production of sugar so that the cultivation of sugar cane was made on a large scale.

In 1890, Negros Province was divided into the eastern and western parts: Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental. La

Carlota was included in the Occidental portion. The “sugar belt,” of which La Carlota was one of the districts, were on the coastal plains. By 1908, there were 30 sugar growers on 1,887 hectares with 8,224 metric tons of sugar production.

With the exportation of sugar to the United States during the American rule, further development of the industry brought about the “*sacadas*” or seasonal laborers who cut the canes in the plantations and load them on wagons or railroad baggage cars to the sugar centrals.

The Islands of Negros and Siquijor comprised the 7th Military District during the Commonwealth territorial organization of the Philippine Army.

During the Japanese occupation, after the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942, the Negros Force was deployed into five subsectors in line with a “guerrilla defense” plan. La Carlota, in the third subsector, was under the command of Major Francisco Gomez. In October 1944, Major Abenir B. Bornales, Commanding Officer of the 76th Infantry, 7th Military District, destroyed the enemy positions in Western Negros. In line with the Leyte campaign, his regiment liberated La Carlota without any American aid.

On June 19, 1965, Republic Act No. 4585 created the Municipality of La Carlota into a chartered city.

After World War II, modern milling machineries were installed and the scientific manufacture of sugar and its by-products was introduced in the city in order to cope with the increased sugar quota in the United States market and to supply the local consumers. Thus, La Carlota produces better sugar than any of the sugar sectors in Negros. From a scattered settlement, it became one of the major sugar-producing cities of the country. Its income and importance have likewise been notable.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF LA CARLOTA

The City of La Carlota was created under  
R.A. 4585 on June 19, 1965.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of La Carlota

<i>Volcano</i>	— the Canla-on Volcano.
<i>Sugar Central</i>	— main industry of the city.
<i>Lady</i>	— symbol of manpower.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ROXAS

THE CITY OF ROXAS, at the northeastern portion of Panay Island, is bounded on the north by the Visayan Sea, on the east by the town of Panay, on the south by the town of Panitan, and on the west by the town of Ivisan. The city is partly drained by the Panay River that flows northward to the Visayan Sea. It has an irregular coastline, with Culasi Point on the northwest.

The city has a land area of 102.0 square kilometers and a population of 67,648 in 1970.

Roxas City, which is within the typhoon belt, experiences rains and storms during the months of June to November. Basically agricultural, it produces the principal crops of rice, sugar, coconut, banana and camote. The fishing industry, a main source of livelihood of the city residents, is attested to by many lattice-work of bamboo for drying fish in the coastal areas. Its home industries are mat and slipper making, banana and camote chip preparation, and poultry raising.

A railroad line connects the city to the busy port of Iloilo while several bus transportation facilities serve the residents to and from the various towns of the province, including those of Aklan, Antique, and Iloilo. A domestic airport also offers regular plane flights to other parts of the country.

Roxas City (formerly the town of Capiz) was a part of the place where Miguel Lopez de Legazpi settled after he arrived from Cebu. In the settlement, the Spaniards found abundant food supply. The place also afforded them better protection

from Portuguese incursions.

In 1716, Capiz and Aklan were organized into politico-military provinces. By 1746, Capiz was made the seat of the politico-military government although it was still ecclesiastically controlled by the Bishopric of Cebu until May 31, 1837, when a Royal Decree made the province into an *alcaldia*. Between 1850 and 1900, Capiz was a bustling trade center.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the center of the revolutionary activities in the island of Panay was in Aklan. When the American forces under General Robert F. Hughes landed in Iloilo in 1899, Generals Ananias Diokno and Roque Lopez retreated to Capiz where they surrendered to the Americans in 1900. On April 15, 1901, the Americans established a civil government in Capiz.

During the Second World War, the Japanese Imperial Forces landed in Panay Island on April 16, 1942. The town of Capiz, however, did not suffer much damage due to active guerrilla activities of the Free Panay Force and the Emergency Provincial Guards.

On April 11, 1951, President Elpidio Quirino signed into law Republic Act No. 603 which created the capital town of Capiz into a city, named "Roxas City," in honor of the first president of the Republic of the Philippines, Manuel Acuña Roxas. On May 12 of the same year, the City of Roxas was inaugurated.

Former Senator Gerardo L. Roxas, son of President M. Roxas, is from the city.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF ROXAS

The City of Roxas was created under R.A. 603 on April 11, 1951.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Roxas

#### *Picture*

— President Manuel Acuña Roxas, greatest son of the city, in whose honor and memory the city was named after.

#### *Shrimp and Crab*

— symbolize the major products of the city and its major land use.

#### *Capiz Shell*

— the **capiz** shell symbolizes the geographical location and description of the city; white color and shape symbolize the hospitality of its people.



**SAMPAGUITA**  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SAN CARLOS (NEGROS OCCIDENTAL)

SAN CARLOS CITY lies at the northeastern part of the Negros Islands. It is bounded on the north by the town of Calatrava, on the east by the Refugio Pass, on the south by Canlaon City (Negros Oriental), and on the west by the town of Murcia.

The city, with a land area of 451.3 square kilometers, had a population of 90,058 (26% urban and 74% rural) in 1970.

San Carlos, with large tracts of land, is planted to sugarcane, the principal crop which annually earns for the city's coffers a million peso revenue. Besides corn, tobacco, and coffee, soy beans are also raised.

As an ideal port city, San Carlos has two piers serving domestic and foreign ships.

Aside from being a commercial community, the city is also considered as a seat of culture in the northeastern part of Negros Occidental. There are four educational institutions: Colegio de Santo Tomas de Villanueva, Colegio de Santa Rita, Central Negros Institute, and Tanon College.

The present site of San Carlos City was a former barrio of Calatrava, called Nabingkalan, in honor of a beautiful daughter of a Negrito chieftain. It was said that a certain Carlos Apurado and his men from the town of Badian, Cebu, bought

the settlement from the Negrito.

Nabingkalan became a municipality in 1898. It was later called San Carlos, in honor of San Carlos Borromeo, the town's patron saint.

San Carlos became a city on June 18, 1960, with the passage of Republic Act No. 2643.

During the Second World War, in March 1945, the Japanese invaders were repulsed by the local guerrillas under the leadership of Lieutenants Alfredo Valdevia and Leonardo Marane. Under the overall command of Colonel Ernesto S. Mata, the guerrillas attacked a Japanese garrison in the compound of San Carlos Milling Company.

Two more of its sons who have distinguished themselves are the late Don Julio Ledesma, one-time sugar magnate, and Romeo Tabuena, the internationally acclaimed painter.

The scenic vacation resorts in San Carlos City are the Refugio (Sipaway) Island (reached by sailboat or ferryboat from the city proper) which is famous for its white beaches; and the Mainit Spring (reached in twenty minutes by bus from the city's thoroughfares) which is known for its hot water of volcanic origin.





*City Seal*



SANTAN  
*City Flower*



CITY OF SAN CARLOS *City Flag*

The City of San Carlos was created under R.A. 2643 on June 18, 1960.

#### Meaning of the Official Seal of San Carlos

*Upper Right Quadrant* — sugar mill, symbolical of San Carlos City's main product which is sugar; the ship signifies that the city is accessible by sea and is a typical coastal city of commerce.

*Lower Left Quadrant* — connotes the topographical structure of the city.

*Map at Center* — Negros map divided into two component provinces.

*Plants* — corn and sugar which are the staple food of San Carloseños.

*Wheel* — symbol of the local administration at the wheel-of-state.

*Text on Band* — Nabingkalan, the original name of the City, first christian settler of the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SILAY

SILAY CITY, located in the northwestern shores of Negros Occidental, lies along the navigable Silay River whose headwaters come from the mountain ranges dominating the central portion of the island. The city extends eastward toward Mt. Mandalagan, with its two sides marked by the boundaries of the municipalities of Talisay in the south, and Tanza and the Malaga River in the north. It is reached by good roads from the City of Bacolod through Talisay.

The flat and fertile volcanic soil is best adapted to sugar cane and the area along its shorelines to coconut. With a warm climate and constant light rains, Silay City derives great profit from its natural resources.

The early settlements were probably inhabited by the Aetas or Negritos. The original *poblacion*, however, was located at the delta of Silay River, along the seashore between Calubcub Point and Bobong Point. In the early days of Spanish conquest, the place was well remembered for its shoals which were found along the coastal areas.

It was only after the second half of the 16th century when the planting of sugar cane was found suitable in the province of Negros. Hence, in 1856, during the term of Emilio Saravia, politico-military governor, emigrants came in great numbers. Consequently, Silay became a sugar-producing municipality in 1860. With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the sugar-producing region prospered. Thus at the close of the Spanish era, the Silay sugarlands were linked by the Talisay road to Bacolod.

Under the Filipino revolutionary government in 1900, the outskirts of the city were still a wilderness with few houses around the sugar-cane fields. In 1904, after attending the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, USA,

General Juan Araneta and Rafael Ramos came back with modern milling machineries.

On June 12, 1957, Silay was created as a chartered city by Republic Act No. 1621. Its population of 19,569 in 1960 zoomed up to 47,421 (39,885 literates and 7,536 illiterates) in 1970.

Some of the distinguished sons of Silay City are Jose C. Locsin—medical practitioner, Governor and Representative of Negros Occidental (1925-1931), Delegate to the Constitutional Convention (1934-1935) of the First District of Negros Occidental and Senator (1951-1956); Manuel A. Adeva—Consul General, Secretary and Charge d'Affaires *ad interim* of the Philippine Legation, Nanking, China (1948), Minister, Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Philippines and Chief of Mission to Taipeh (1948-1953); Juan L. Ledesma—Delegate to the Constitutional Convention (1934-1935) of the First District of Negros Occidental; Ruben Ledesma—Deputy Commissioner of the Civil Service Commission (1956) and Director of Personnel Administration, Central Bank (1957); Alfredo Montelibano—first Mayor of Bacolod City (1938), Secretary of National Defense and of the Interior (1945), Import Commissioner (1950), Economic Coordinator (1954), and Chairman of the National Economic Council (1956); and Teodoro M. Locsin—Staff Member of the *Philippines Free Press* before proclamation of Martial Law.

As a major sugar-producing city in the country, its sugar boom brought about the emergence of a big labor force called "sacada gangs," mostly from Iloilo and Capiz: a considerable middle-class group; and a number of sugar "barons" and millers. Silay City, with its vast commercial-industrial complex and sugar-cane plantations, has to contend with labor-management problems to keep up with progress.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



SANTAN  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF SILAY

The City of Silay was created under R.A. 1621 on June 12, 1957.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Silay

*Sugar Central, Fish  
and Sugarcane*

— sugar central represents the major industry of the city. Sugarcane and fish represent the major products on which majority of the people depend for their livelihood.

*Eight Gold Stars*

— represent the eight barrios of the city, namely, Balaring, Eustaquio Lopez, Guimbalaon, Guinhalaran, Nantad, Mambulac, Kapitan Ramon and Rizal.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BAIS

BAIS, with a land area of 30,000 hectares, is situated along the south. It is well protected by Daco Island. Like many juyod in the north, Daco Island and Banlas Point in the east, Negros Occidental in the west, and Tanjay and Pamplona in the south. It is well protected by the Daco Island. Like many towns of Negros, Bais has volcanic soil suited for sugar; hence this town is the center of a sugar-growing district. Sugar, lumber, kapok, rice and corn are its principal products. It has a healthful climate and a very short dry season.

The name of the city is derived from "Bahis," a kind of fish which abound in the sea near the place. The North and South Bais Bay—divided by Daco Island—are natural fishing grounds.

In the city, there are two big industrial firms, the *Central Azucarera de Bais* and the *Compañia Cellulosa de Filipinas* with a small hospital and quarters for employees. A railroad runs from Bais Sugar Central to the stone pier which extends to Guindung Point. The beaches are unfavorable for landing due to the treacherous reefs, mud flats, and coastal mangrove swamps.

On January 20, 1848, Governor General Don Narciso Claveria entrusted the Island of Negros to the Recollect Fathers. Fray Joaquin Soriano, Father Provincial of the Recollects, then sent missionaries to Negros in 1849.

Bais was created as a town in 1849. It had 753 tribute payers in 1849, 6,470 inhabitants in 1850; 22,471 in 1944, and, as a city, 40,095 in 1970.

In 1850, Bais was only a "visita" under the civil and ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the town of Tanjay. Later, it became a barrio of Manjuyod. The tribunal was its only strongly-built structure. The first village chapel was built of light materials and the construction of a concrete church started only in 1850, when Father Guillermo Garcia del Carmen became parish priest. In 1885, Father Manuel Alonzo took over the parish.

In 1865, hydraulic mills were installed in Bais, Bago, Bacolod, La Carlota, Pontevedra, Granada, Minuluan and Silay; altogether, they were capable of milling 100 piculs of sugar in twelve hours. These machineries replaced the primitive wooden mills. From 1865, the progress of Bais started with such increasing economic activities, particularly in sugar production, until 1896 when the Philippine Revolution broke out.

The revolution in Negros started on November 5, 1898. General Juan Araneta led the resistance movement against the Spaniards. Two days after, in Bacolod, the Spanish forces in Negros surrendered to Aniceto Lacson y Ledesma, Commander-in-Chief of the Filipino forces in Northern Negros. A Cantonal Government was then established and Gen. Juan Araneta became the Secretary of War.

When the American forces arrived, Gen. Araneta counselled the Cantonal Government to submit to the American invaders. Occidental and Oriental Negros, which were separated in 1890, were again united until the establishment of a civil government by the Americans in 1901.

During World War II, Bais was the headquarters of the guerrilla forces under Major Placido Ausejo, a constabulary officer. A Japanese garrison was stationed in the town for sometime. When the Americans landed in Dumaguete, the enemy forces withdrew. Fierce fighting took place only in the southwestern coastline and mountain areas of Negros Oriental.

The town was created as a chartered city by virtue of Republic Act No. 5444, approved on September 9, 1968. Genaro Goñi was the first city mayor.

Bais became a bustling big town after the war. Yearly, the city produces an average of 1,107,491 piculs of sugar. Sugar centrals, shipping facilities, trade and commercial activities are now handled by the local administration.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF BAIS

The City of Bais was created under R.A. 5444 on September 9, 1968.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bais

#### *Upper Portion*

— sugar central, which plays a vital role in the city's economy and supports its sugar and paper industries: the coconut represents the other segment of agriculture, which employs farm hands and workers and contributes greatly to the income of the city.

#### *Lower Portion*

— the fresh-water eel (*bais*, in the Cebuano vernacular and derivative of the name of the city), symbolic of the city's fishing industry and source of livelihood of ten percent of its population.



SANTAN  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CANLAON

CANLAON CITY, situated on the eastern side of Mt. Canlaon, in the Province of Negros Oriental, is bounded on the north by the City of San Carlos, on the east by Valle Hermoso (Negros Oriental), on the south by Guihulngan, and on the west by La Castellana.

With a land area of 160.7 square kilometers, it had a population of 23,598 in 1970.

Canlaon used to be a wilderness ruled by a native chief called Saniko. In 1584, the settlers from Cebu, Bohol and Antique migrated to Barrio Panubigan, the present site of the city. During the last decades of the 19th century, Panubigan was claimed as a hacienda by Don Diego de la Viña, a resident of Valle Hermoso. Mabigo, the original settlement within the hacienda, later became a progressive community.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the local revolutionary activity was led by Jose de la Viña and *Kapitan* Saniko. The former became the *Teniente Coronel de la Revolucion*.

When the Americans came in 1900, one of the native chiefs, Tranquilino Kilana, fought the Americans and died in the battle of Panubigan. For sometime, during the American occupation,

Mabigo became a hideout of bandits; the noted ones were Papa Isio, Sapinay and Magdag-it.

In 1941, the residents of Mabigo, led by Isidoro Bautista, filed a petition urging the National Government to convert Mabigo into a municipality. The petition, however, was shelved indefinitely because of the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941.

In 1942, Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon and his party stayed for sometime in Mabigo on their way to Mindanao. The same year, the Japanese planes bombed the place because it was the alleged hideouts of Filipino guerrilla units.

After the Second World War, the barrio of Mabigo, and the other sitios surrounding it, became the Municipality of Canlaon through the passage of Executive Proclamation No. 19 on October 11, 1946. Several months later, on January 1, 1947, some barrios of the Municipality of Valle Hermoso were annexed to the new Municipality of Canlaon.

Canlaon became a chartered city under Republic Act No. 3445, approved on June 18, 1961. But it was not until the issuance of Presidential Proclamation No. 193 on April 20, 1967 that Canlaon was inaugurated.





*City Seal*



**CITY OF CANLAON** *City Flag*

The City of Canlaon was created under R.A. 3445 on June 18, 1961.

#### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Canlaon**

##### *Upper Portion*

— depicts the 8,050 ft. high Canlaon Volcano (left) and Mt. Makawili, 7,950 ft. high (right); green color stands for Mt. Canlaon National Park.

##### *Lower Portion*

— the giant shell overflowing with vegetables symbolizes the over abundant supply of vegetables; harvested bundles of palay symbolize abundance in rice making Canlaon the rice granary of Northern Negros Island; bundles of sugarcane represent sugar varieties which make sugarcane the principal crop of the city.



**CALLALILY**  
*City Flower*

##### *Laurel Leaves*

— symbolic of the humble beginnings of the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CEBU

CEBU, the "Queen City of the South," is bounded on the east by Danao City, Compostela, Liloan, Consolacion, and Mandaue City; on the west by Toledo City and Balamban; on the south by Talisay and Minglanilla; and on the north by Danao City and Asturias; and across on the southeast is the Mactan Island.

The city has a land area of 280.9 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 347,116. Cebuano is the dominant dialect.

The abundant growth of rice, corn, vegetables and fruits (mango for export) is due to its fertile clay-loam soil. Coconut and sugarcane are planted on the other areas where agricultural products are not adapted. The region also abounds in mineral resources, lead and coal in particular.

Cebu City is a busy educational, commercial, and trading center in the south. The people are engaged in almost every commercial, trade, and business enterprise. The others are engaged in horticulture, floriculture, furniture making, wood carving, shellcraft, watch repairing, cotton and silk-cloth handloom weaving, slipper-making, basket and bag making, and *tuba* gathering.

The name Cebu came from the word *Sebu*, meaning "animal fat." The place was thus referred to as *Sebu*, *Sugbu*, *Cubu*, and *Zebu*. Long before the coming of the Spaniards, it was a fishing village ruled by Rajah Humabon.

On April 7, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan arrived in Cebu. Seven days later, on the 14th, Rajah Humabon, his wife, and about 800 men, were baptized into Christianity. After Magellan's death in the Battle of Mactan on the 27th, Rajah Humabon invited the remaining Spanish soldiers to a banquet and took advantage of the occasion by killing most of them on May 1 of the same year.

The conquest of Cebu started on April 27, 1565, when Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Father Andres Urdaneta arrived at Cebu from Mexico. After bombarding and conquering the pallisades of Rajah Tupas, they rebuilt the ruined village which became the first permanent settlement in the Philippines. It was named San Miguel, and later renamed "*Villa del Santisimo Nombre de Jesus*."

A significant revolt in Cebu, led by Leon Kilat, on April

3, 1898, at the corner of the present Tres de Abril Street and Vicente Rama Avenue, was caused by the tragic mass slaughter of 70 Visayan sailors in *Calle de Camba* in Manila on March 25, 1898. The sailors were suspected of plotting a conspiracy against the Spaniards. The city was controlled by the insurgents who set up a secret headquarters at Sudlon until the coming of the Americans.

On October 20, 1936, Cebu became a chartered city by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 58, amended by C.A. No. 129 on November 5, 1936.

The Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Cebu City on April 10, 1942. Three years later, it was liberated by the Americans on April 21, 1945.

On March 18, 1957, the city received the remains of President Ramon Magsaysay, Major Pobre, Tomas Cabili, Vicente Rama and others who died when *Mt. Pinatubo* (presidential plane) crashed on Mt. Manunggal in Talamban, Cebu.

Republic Act No. 3857 revised the Charter of the City of Cebu on June 10, 1964.

On April 28, 1965, the anniversary of the 4th centenary of the Christianization of the Philippines was celebrated in Cebu with His Eminence Hildebrando Cardinal Antonietti representing the Holy Father (the Pope) in Rome, and other visitors witnessing the occasion.

Some of its historical landmarks and tourist spots are: the Magellan Cross, with stone slab erected in 1845 by Bishop Marañon; the Sto. Niño de Cebu, a gift of Magellan to the Queen of Cebu; the San Agustin Church, built in 1565 and converted by the Holy Father into a Basilica Minore on April 28, 1965; the Plaza Libertad, dominated by the monuments of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Ramon Magsaysay; Fort San Pedro, a lookout of the Spanish Army against the "*Moros*" built in 1565; the Colon Street, the oldest street in the Philippines (constructed in 1565); the Avenue of Flags, flanked on both sides by narra trees; the Beverly Hills, compared with the panoramic views of San Francisco in the United States and the Victoria Peak in Hongkong; the Banawa Hills, where reposes a quaint and picturesque convent; the Taoist Temple; and the Osmeña Fountain and Park.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF CEBU

The City of Cebu was created under C.A. 58 on October 20, 1936.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cebu

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Magellan Cross</i>              | — symbol of Cebu City as the cradle of Christian faith in the Far East.   |
| <i>Yellow Background</i>           | — represents the golden sun which makes Cebu one of the major fruit producers in the country.   |
| <i>Blue and Crimson Red Colors</i> | — stand for courage and valor which characterize the Cebuanos from the time of Lapulapu, down to Tupas, Leon Kilat, the revolutionaries and the Cebuano soldiers of World War II—all of whom went down in Philippine history as martyrs for the cause of freedom. |



SAMPAGUITA  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF DANAOS

DANAO CITY lies on the northeastern part of the island of Cebu. It is limited by Asturias on the west, Carmen on the north, Compostela on the southeast, the City of Cebu on the southwest, and the Camotes Sea on the east.

The city has a land area of 107.3 square kilometers. Its population in 1970 was 47,662. The dialect used is dominantly Cebuano.

The main source of livelihood of the people is agriculture. However, there are other industries in which the people are engaged, such as fishing, *tuba*-gathering, coal-mining, pottery, nipa strip-making, basket-making, and cheese making. Danao has large deposits of coal and gypsum.

In 1844, the Bishop of Cebu, in order to organize more towns in the northern part of the island, selected Capt. Manuel del Rosario for the task. After reaching the place, Del Rosario christened it "Danao" from the word "*Danawan*," meaning "shallow ponds." He started with the construction of the "*Presidencia*" to house the officers of the town government. He also resorted to compulsory labor for the construction of the church, convent, municipal building, and town roads. Capt. Victorino Buot, the last "*capitan municipal*" of Danao, completed the church and the municipal buildings.

When the Americans occupied the island in 1898, Buot was imprisoned in Fort San Pedro in Cebu City. Later, he was asked by the Americans to lead the people of Danao during the establishment of the civil government in 1900.

In April 1942, the Japanese occupied the municipal building, convent and church of Danao, and later tortured and killed many people. Thus, the guerrillas were forced to fight the enemy even with insufficient firearms on September 8, 1942. A day after, three Japanese bombers raided the town for almost four hours. Three years later, on April 18, 1945, the Americans liberated the place.

Danao City was created on June 7, 1961 by virtue of Republic Act No. 3028.

Danao City is the first city in the Philippines to have all roads cemented. It operates cement, cardboard, sugar mill, and bag factories; and car-assembly, electric, ice, laminating and embossing plants.

The finest resorts in Cebu, like the Sand Beach, the Look Beach, and Myrna Beach, are found in Danao. The city is also famous for its City Hall, and the Public Plaza which was once chosen as the most beautiful in the Philippines.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



RED ROSE  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF DANAO

The City of Danao was created under R.A. 3028 on June 7, 1961.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Danao

#### *Upper Portion*

—depicts the basic livelihood of the people of Danao—abundant coal and dolomite deposits and industries that employ its inhabitants.

#### *Lower Portion*

—symbolic of the progressive sugar industry of which has benefitted the Dawanons the province since the operation of the Durano Sugar Mills.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF DUMAGUETE

THE CITY OF DUMAGUETE, capital of Negros Oriental, is situated on the plains of the southeastern coast of the Island of Negros, near the mouth of the Banica River. It is bounded on the north by the town of Sibulan; on the west by the Mindanao Sea, serving as a natural border to the neighboring Province of Siquijor; on the southwest by the town of Valencia; and the south by the town of Bacong.

The city, composed of 22 barrios, has a land area of 55.8 square kilometers and a population of 14,894 in 1903, 22,236 in 1939, 24,838 in 1948, 35,282 in 1960, and 51,484 in 1970.

It is a commercial center with a port of call for interisland and foreign vessels from Manila and the western provinces of Mindanao.

The people of Dumaguete are engaged in small-scale industries—fishing, poultry raising, and nipa roof production—for local consumption.

“Dumaguete” was coined from the Visayan word “*daggit*” which means “to snatch.” Because of the frequent marauding attacks of the Muslim pirates on the coastal town, the Negrenese word “*dumaguet*,” meaning “to swoop,” was appended to the village of Dumaguete. However, Diego Lopez Povedano in 1572, indicated the place as “*Dananguet*.” But in 1734, Murillo Velarde referred to it, using its present name, as Dumaguete.

The *encomendero*, Povedano, in 1572, found the Tanjay-Dumaguete area as the center of the population in Negros Province. Tanjay, originally called Buglas, was named Negros by the Spaniards because of its numerous Negrito tribes. It was the former capital of the Province of Negros.

In 1620, Dumaguete was created as an independent parish from Tanjay under a certain Father Herrera. Dumaguete was then under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Cebu. Later, in 1734, Negros Oriental, of which Dumaguete was a town, was separated as a military district with a government of its own. In 1811, a watchtower was constructed in the town to protect the natives from the Muslim pirates. Again, the province was created into a politico-military district in 1856 and many people

from Antique, Capiz and Cebu came to settle in the village.

In 1890, the island-province of Negros was divided into two politico-military provinces, Occidental and Oriental. As earlier constituted, in 1898, Dumaguete was included in Negros Oriental.

After the Philippine-American War, on May 1, 1901, a civil government was established by the Americans in the Province of Negros Oriental, including Dumaguete.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied the province. From June 15 to July 15, 1943, the Japanese forces operated in the area west of Dumaguete. Powerful enemy reconnaissance troops assaulted the command post of the North Negros Sector. About two years later, on April 20, 1945, the American Liberation Forces landed at Looc Beach in Sibulan. The 73rd Guerrilla Division under Major General Ceferino R. Galvez and the 2nd Combat Troop, 7th Military District, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Placido A. Ausejo covered the American forces by resolutely attacking the Japanese forces along the Maslong-Banica-Palingpian Beach Line. When the American armored units entered Dumaguete, the enemy troops retreated to the vicinity of Mount Talinis in the “*Cuernos de Negros*” area. Lt. Colonel Ausejo and the 7th Military District (2nd Combat Guerrillas), Philippine Army, were commended by Col. William P. Mahony, Commanding Officer of the 164th Infantry, for their efficient assistance in the liberation of Dumaguete City.

On June 15, 1948, Republic Act No. 327, created the City of Dumaguete. Later, in 1969, Republic Act No. 5797 revised the city charter.

Silliman University, founded on August 28, 1901, is the oldest and leading protestant school in the city and one of the best in the Far East.

Among the government agencies with offices in the city are the Philippine Constabulary, the National Red Cross, the Bureaus of Prisons, Public Schools, Health, Internal Revenue, Public Works, Lands, Agricultural Extension, and Veterinary Medicines.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



ILANG-ILANG  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF DUMAGUETE

The City of Dumaguete was created under R.A. 327 on July 15, 1948.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Dumaguete

*Gate*

— represents the “Gate of Opportunity” of Silliman University, the first university established outside of Manila.

*Tower*

— the watch tower built by the Spaniards to advise the people about the approach of the Moro pirates.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LAPU-LAPU

LAPU-LAPU CITY, located on the northern part of Mactan Island, is bounded by the Magellan Bay on the north, the Mactan Channel on the west, the Hilutangan Channel on the East, and the Municipality of Cordoba on the south.

The city has a land area of 58.1 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 69,268.

On April 27, 1521, Lapu-Lapu, a native chieftain, successfully repulsed the foreign invaders in Mactan. He defeated the Spanish troops and killed their leader, Ferdinand Magellan.

Lapu-Lapu City, formerly the Municipality of Opon, was founded by the Augustinian missionaries in 1730. It was ceded to the Jesuits in 1737, and later restored to the Augustinians.

When the Philippine Revolution spread to the Visayas in 1896, the people organized themselves into local revolutionary units.

During the Filipino-American War, a military government was established. The continued resistance of the people of Cebu prompted the American government to restore military control over the province on July 17, 1901. In 1905, Opon held its first municipal elections, and Pascual de la Cerna was elected town president.

The presence of oil tanks in Opon made the town an object of Japanese raids a week after the outbreak of World War II in December 1941. The enemy planes succeeded in blowing up two of about fourteen oil tanks in Opon.

A unit of the Kawaguchi Detachment of the Japanese Im-

perial Forces landed on the east coast of Cebu on April 10, 1942. Later, the resistance movement was organized by Colonel James F. Cushing, leader of the southern and central units, and Harry Fenton of the northern unit of the Cebu Resistance Movement.

The Victor II operations of the American Division led by Major General William Arnold landed in Cebu on March 26, 1945, and subsequently liberated the province.

Lapu-Lapu was made into a chartered city by Republic Act No. 3134 on June 17, 1961. It was inaugurated on December 31, 1961, with Mariano Dimataga, the last municipal mayor, as the first city mayor.

As a fast growing commercial city, some of its commercial and industrial firms are the General Milling Company, one of the largest in the country; the Cebu Shipyard and Engineering Works, pioneered by "Dad" Cleland; and the oil companies which resumed their operations after the war. The air flight in the city is served by the Mactan Alternate International Airport.

Historically, the city is the site of the famous "Battle of Mactan." On August 1, 1973, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 260, President Ferdinand E. Marcos declared the site of the battle as a national shrine; the "preservation, restoration and/or reconstruction" of which "shall be under the supervision and control of the National Historical Commission in collaboration with the Department of Tourism." Mactan is also the birthplace of Leonila Dimataga-Garcia, wife of the late Carlos P. Garcia, the fourth President of the Republic.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF LAPU-LAPU

The City of Lapu-lapu was created under R.A. 3134 on June 17, 1961.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Lapu-lapu

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Top Middle</i>    | — image of the Virgin of Rule, the patron saint of the city.  |
| <i>Top Left</i>      | — indicates that the city is the center of guitar-making throughout the country; also indicates the abundance of marine products. |
| <i>Top Right</i>     | — the bridge linking the island city to mainland Cebu thru Mandaue City.  |
| <i>Center</i>        | — depicts killing of Magellan by Lapu-lapu on April 27, 1521.   |
| <i>Center Left</i>   | — monument of Magellan located at Mactan.   |
| <i>Center Right</i>  | — monument of Lapu-lapu.  |
| <i>Lower Portion</i> | — alternate international airport.  |



CHAMPACA  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF MANDAUE

MANDAUE CITY, on the eastern shores of the Province of Cebu, is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Consolacion, on the west by Cebu City, and on the east and south by the Mactan Channel.

Mandaue, a trade center of the province, has a land area of 11.7 square kilometers. It had a population of 58,579 in 1970.

As a coastal city, fishing is an important economic activity of the inhabitants. The people are also engaged in farming, salt-making and ceramics manufacturing. Its principal products are copra, rice, salt, vegetables and fruits.

Mandaue, before the coming of the Spaniards, had already trade relations with the neighboring Asian countries. In 1521, Antonio de Pigafetta mentioned Mandaue as one of the many villages of Cebu ruled by a chieftain called *Apanooan*.

The village was exposed to occasional piratical raids; hence, a fortress called "*Bantayan sa Hari*" was constructed. The watchtower was later used as quarters of the *Guardia Civil*.

The Jesuits ministered Mandaue as early as 1600. By 1656, the Jesuit mission in Mandaue was under the charge of the College of Cebu which was founded by Pedro de Aguilar.

The Recollect missionaries took over the spiritual ministrations of Mandaue in 1846. Father Diego Sanz became its first parish priest.

The people of Mandaue, as in the other towns of the Province of Cebu, participated in the struggle against the Spaniards during the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

When the American forces came, Cebu, together with the Tagalog provinces, continued its fight for freedom. Later, the Philippine Commission passed an act on July 17, 1901, which restored the military government in Cebu.

A week after the outbreak of the Second World War, the Japanese planes bombed the province. Cebu was occupied on April 10, 1942, when a unit of the Kawaguchi Detachment landed on its shores.

The resistance movements were organized in the province when Brigadier General B. G. Chynoweth of the USAFFE commissioned Colonel James F. Cushing and Harry Fenton to lead the resistance movement in Cebu. Eventually, the residents of Mandaue engaged the Japanese forces in guerrilla warfare.

During the liberation, the American forces landed in Cebu on March 26, 1945. In April 21 of the same year, Cebu was liberated from the Japanese invaders.

Mandaue was made a chartered city by Republic Act No. 5519 on June 21, 1969.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF MANDAUE

The City of Mandaue was created under R.A. 5519 on June 21, 1969.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Mandaue

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Tower</i>                       | — the Bantayan sa Hari tower, legendary landmark of the city.   |
| <i>Golden Wheel</i>                | — symbol of the aspirations and steady progress of the city.  |
| <i>Twenty Seven Gears</i>          | — represent the twenty seven (27) barrios of the city.  |
| <i>Red Ribbon with Inscription</i> | — tribute to the well-known courage and determination of the Mandauehanons.   |
| <i>Two Green Twigs</i>             | — twigs of the Mantawi tree, derivative of the city's name. The four reds fruits in each twig represent fruitful results in four major fields of endeavor, namely, peace and order, community development, economy and education. |



ROSAL  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN

TAGBILARAN CITY is situated at the southwestern coast of Bohol Island, facing a narrow and shallow channel. On the opposite is Panglao Island which serves as a natural wall to protect Tagbilaran from approaching storms. It faces the populous industrial and commercial island of Cebu toward the anchorage for small and big seacrafts, the city serves as a safe anchorage for small and big sea crafts. Tagbilaran, being near the City of Cebu, is the "door" to the other parts of Bohol.

The early fishing village was called *Tinabilan* from *Tina* which means "being," and *bilan* for "covered." The Spaniards in speaking the dialect, adopted Tagbilaran and generally accepted it as the name of the place.

In 1565, Datu Sikatuna and Miguel Lopez de Legazpi performed the blood compact in Barrio Bo-ol, Tagbilaran, Bohol, to seal their friendship. Tagbilaran then had already an advanced culture and a flourishing trade with the Chinese, Portuguese and Muslims.

The Jesuits who earlier settled in the islands left the mission work on July 3, 1768 to the Recollect Missionaries. They maintained sufficient troops at Talibon for security, built many churches and developed agricultural lands. The ministry of Tagbilaran was controlled from the residence at Talibon and Inabangan.

The enforced labor, heavy tributes, and abuses of the friars and government officials, as well as intrusion into the religious life of the Boholanos, started the flame of resentment against colonial rule. In 1621, a Filipino *babaylan* or priest, named Tamblot, led an armed resistance against the Jesuits for constant transgressions on the religious life of the people. The rebels were driven and later annihilated in a battle in the hinterlands.

In 1744, another rebellion led by Francisco Dagohoy rocked the island of Bohol. He was later defeated by the Spanish-Filipino forces. However, his followers continued to defy the

Spanish authority. They established a free government in the mountains and remained unsubdued in their stronghold for 85 years (1744-1829).

In 1902, cholera broke out and claimed several lives in Tagbilaran, (a new village then) but its population in later years steadily increased. The town had 10,108 inhabitants in 1903, 12,305 in 1918, 20,250 in 1960, and 24,084 in 1970.

When the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896, the Spaniards evacuated the capital and the natives established a local government under the leadership of Pedro Samson. In 1900, the Americans occupied Tagbilaran and, with the surrender of Samson, a provincial civil government was established in Tagbilaran on April 20, 1901.

Tagbilaran, being the capital, became the center of the provincial administration. It had all the advantages of topography than any of the coastal municipalities. Due to its proximity to Cebu City, industrial and commercial establishments bustled with brisk business activities. It is the hub of trade and commerce in the central and western Visayas and the northern Mindanao area. The airport in Tagbilaran serves the domestic flights of the Philippine Airlines and other national airlines.

On June 18, 1966, Republic Act No. 4660, made Tagbilaran into a chartered city.

Some of the distinguished sons of Tagbilaran are Bernardo Inting, lawyer and Delegate of the First District of Bohol to the Constitutional Convention (1934-1935); Celestino Gallares, lawyer and Representative from the First District of Bohol, (1916-1922), member of the Independence Mission to the United States (1921), and Provincial Governor of Bohol, (1931-1934); and Cecilio Putong, educator, Undersecretary of Education (1949-1952) and Secretary of Education (1952-1953).





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**KALACHUCHI**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF TAGBILARAN**

The City of Tagbilaran was created under R.A. 4660 on June 18, 1966.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Tagbilaran**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Boat</i>          | — symbolizes the landing of Legazpi in Bohol, Tagbilaran City on March 16, 1565.    |
| <i>Braced Elbows</i> | — symbol of the blood compact between Legazpi and Sikatuna as a sign of friendship. |
| <i>Scroll</i>        | — represents the country's first peace treaty.                                      |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TOLEDO

TOLEDO CITY, centrally located on the flat coastal area on the western part of Cebu, is bounded on the west and northwest by the Tanon Strait, on the east by Cebu City, and on the south by the town of Pinamungajan.

Its shoreline is regular, but the high waves of the Tanon Strait, along the seashore, makes navigation often dangerous to shipping.

The city has a land area of 174.5 square kilometers, and a population of 300 in 1903, 1,960 in 1918, and 67,727 in 1970.

It is the outlet of trading and commercial activities of San Carlos, La Carlota and Cadiz in Negros Occidental, and Bais in Negros Oriental. Toledo is connected by first and second class roads from Santander to Daanbantayan, and from Toledo to Cebu City.

Sugar, rice and corn are its important agricultural products, while fishing is an important source of livelihood of the people.

The old site of Toledo was situated along the banks of the Hinolawan River, a kilometer from the present city area. The people crossed the river, before reaching their settlement; hence, they washed their feet before entering their homes. The place was referred to as a "watering hole," and the river and the settlement were called "*hinawan*" or "*hinolawan*," meaning "washing place."

In 1853, the Spanish colonizers moved the Hinolawan settlement to the south of the old site, which proved to be unfavorable for the establishment of a *pueblo*. It was then called Toledo, after a city in Spain.

A year after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the natives rose in arms against the Spanish rulers.

Inspired by Pantaleon Villegas, known as Capitan Leon Kilat, the local revolutionary forces led by Claudio Bacus (called Calorio), attacked the Spanish community. The town official, *Capitan* Esteban Perez, was caught and tried by the revolutionists. He was made to run for his life at Talavera Beach before the rebels' bullets hit him. The Spanish curate escaped to Dumanjug and returned with Spanish soldiers who landed at Bato, seven kilometers south of Toledo. They attacked the town of Cueva (now *Capitan* Claudio) where the revolutionists, after heavy fighting, were pushed back to the caves of Sudlon.

Later, by order of Governor General Diego de los Rios, the Spanish forces were concentrated in the defense of Iloilo. Most of the members of the Spanish community were evacuated from Toledo until the revolutionary army fully controlled the town.

In 1900, when the American forces arrived in the Visayan Islands, they fought against the Filipino forces around the church of Toledo. After the fall of the town, the Americans stormed the general headquarters of the revolutionists at Sudlon. The revolutionary government eventually collapsed before the American forces. Under the American regime, schools were opened in 1905 at Sudlon.

During World War II, Toledo was heavily bombed by the Japanese Air Force and shelled by the Japanese Navy. On March 15, 1942, the enemy forces occupied the *poblacion*. In April 10 of the same year, the Japanese forces totally controlled Western Cebu.

When the American Liberation Forces re-occupied Cebu, the Japanese burned Toledo before they evacuated to Cebu City.

Toledo became a city by virtue of Republic Act No. 2688, approved on June 18, 1960.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



ILANG-ILANG  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF TOLEDO

The City of Toledo was created under R.A. 2668 on June 18, 1960.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Toledo

<i>Pick and Shovel</i>	— stand for labor.
<i>Tower</i>	— represents mining.
<i>Gear</i>	— symbol of industry.
<i>Colors</i>	— white is for purity; blue, for peace; and red, bravery.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CALBAYOG

THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, situated on the western part of Samar, is bounded on the north by Catarman, Mondragon, San Isidro and Pambujan, on the east by Sta. Margarita and Gandara, and on the west and south by the Samar Sea.

The city has a land area of 903 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 94,323. The dialect spoken by the Samareños (as the people are called) is Samar-Leyte (Waray).

Calbayog is rich in natural resources which provide various raw materials for its industrial development. It has a fertile soil suited to agriculture. Manganese is also found in the city. Copra and abaca production, fishing and mining are industries in which the people are engaged.

Some people believe that the word "Calbayog" was derived from the combined words *cal* (the Spanish word for lime) and *bayog* (tree from which lime is extracted). The others, however, believe it was derived from *Kan Bayog*, meaning "Bayog's place".

The forerunner of Calbayog settlement was Caybago. From here the inhabitants moved to Anislag, which was found to be unsafe, because it was always visited by flood. The settlers decided to move downward, following the course of the river toward the sea. Finally, they transferred to Tabok, now known as Calle Buroka, where Fr. Sebastian Gomez (also known as Fr. Jose Huerce Gomez) became the first parish priest of Calbayog from 1836 to 1855. He initiated the construction of

the *Catedral de San Pedro y Pablo* (the biggest in Samar) and the barracks.

On July 8, 1899, Gen. Vicente Lukban arrived in Calbayog. Upon the arrival of the Americans, he made preparations for the burning of the town; but the people of Calbayog refused to destroy their properties.

In the later part of 1900, the barracks built by Gomez served as the seat of the civil government under the Americans.

In 1901, Rufino Pido was appointed "*Presidente Municipal*."

The *Colegio Seminario de San Vicente de Paul* was founded by the Paulistas in 1905.

Calbayog City, then a municipality, was occupied by the Japanese forces from May 27, 1942, until the coming of the American forces in January 1945.

The city, comprising the present municipalities of Calbayog, Oquendo and Tinambacan, was created on July 15, 1948, by Republic Act No. 328, which was later amended by R.A. No. 3279 on June 17, 1961.

The beautiful and historical spots and ruins in the city are the beach in Malajog, the hot springs and waterfalls in Oquendo District, the cave at Guingoan, the slides at Mawacat, the pit in Hamorawon (dug by Fr. Gomez), the old church in Anislag, and the guard tower (used as a lookout against the invading Muslims).





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**ILANG-ILANG**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF CALBAYOG**

The City of Calbayog was created under R.A. 328 on July 15, 1948.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Calbayog**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Rope</i>                        | — stands for the abaca industry of Calbayog City.              |
| <i>Cross and Bishop's Cane</i>     | — means that the city is the seat of Diocese of Western Samar. |
| <i>Shell and Fish</i>              | — represent shell and fishing industries of the city.          |
| <i>Coconut Tree and Ricefields</i> | — symbol of copra and rice, major products of Calbayog.        |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ORMOC

THE CITY OF ORMOC, the center of commerce and industry on the western part of Leyte, is bounded on the north by the town of Kananga, on the south by the Ormoc Bay, on the southwest by Merida, on the southeast by Albuera, on the west by Palompon, and on the east by Dagami.

It has a land area of 464.3 square kilometers and a population of 84,563 as of 1970. Because of the city's fertile soil and rich fishing ground, the residents are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Before the Portuguese navigator, Ferdinand Magellan, reached Leyte in 1521, Ormoc was known as "*Ugmok*," "*Ugmuk*," or "*Ogmuc*," meaning "lowland" or "plain." It was already a well-established fishing village with a culture and civilization of its own.

On July 16, 1595, Father Pedro Chirino and the other Jesuit missionaries arrived in Leyte. In May 1597, the mission of Ormoc was founded by Fathers Alonso Rodriguez and Leonardo Scelsi.

Ormoc, a seacoast village, was always raided by the Muslims. Early in 1634, Raja Bungsu, ruler of Sulu, captured 300 natives from Ormoc after a successful attack in Camarines. To protect the people, the Jesuit Juan del Carpio constructed fortifications which were attacked by the Magindanaus before its completion. The natives were defeated and Carpio was killed; his head was presented to the Magindanau king.

In 1768, the Augustinians took over the missions in Leyte after the Jesuits were expelled. In 1804, these missions were transferred to the secular clergy until November 13, 1850.

Ormoc was then a mere barrio of Palompon.

During the Philippine Revolution, Leyte became involved only several months after its outbreak in August 1896. The Revolutionary Government represented by General Vicente Lukban took possession of Leyte.

Shortly after the American forces defeated the Spaniards, and later the Filipinos, a civil government was established in Leyte on April 22, 1901. However, Faustino Ablen organized the *pulahanes* movement which was eventually crushed by the American forces.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces, after bombing the airfield of Leyte, occupied the province on May 25, 1942. Consequently, resistance units were organized, among them was the Western Leyte Warfare Forces. On November 6, 1944, the decisive and historic battle of Ormoc "Corridor," a three-pronged attack by the combined forces of the Americans and Filipinos encircled and placed the Yamashita Line completely under control. The American 77th Division landed at *Deposito*, about 3 miles south of Ormoc, on the 7th of December; captured Camp Downer on the 9th; and entered Ormoc the next day despite enemy opposition.

Ormoc became a city through Republic Act No. 179 which was approved on June 21, 1947. The law took effect on October 20th of the same year by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 42. Marcelo Bandalan was elected as its first city mayor.

The city has several scenic spots but the most popular is the Tuñongan Hot Springs with medicinal springs and geyser.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**KALACHUCHI**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF ORMOC**

The City of Ormoc was created under R.A. 179 on June 21, 1947.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Ormoc**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Upper Portion</i> | — symbol of the city's industrialization.   |
| <i>Left Portion</i>  | — depicts Tungonan Hot Springs National Park, major tourist attraction of the city.   |
| <i>Right Portion</i> | — denotes the famous Leyte Landing on October 20, 1944, 1947, the Battle of Ormoc Corridor (or Yamashita Line) and the Liberation of Leyte. |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TACLOBAN

TACLOBAN CITY, acclaimed as the "Queen City of Eastern Visayas," is located in the northeastern part of the Province of Leyte and in the southern side of the San Juanico Strait.

Facing the town of Basey in Samar, the city overlooks the San Pedro Bay whose waters are daily (throughout the year) churned by motor launches and interisland and foreign vessels. Tacloban, with an excellent harbor, is the most important port in the eastern coast, an entry where foreign vessels regularly load copra, abaca and logs. The wharf has a depth of 18 to 20 feet. At about 300 to 400 yards from the shoreline, where the sea is deeper, bigger vessels of heavier tonnage anchor. The north and northwest portion of the bay is even much deeper. It is also studded with fish corrals, especially in the shallow portions of the Kankabato and Tacloban offshore lands, which are good fishing grounds.

Tacloban is an industrial, commercial and educational center. Within a radius of 50 kilometers, business enterprises are established, with the San Miguel Brewery prominently conspicuous in the southern area. The Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines, and some private banking and financial institutions in the city boost its trade, and commercial and industrial investments.

Tacloban is a "waray-speaking" city. Its local dialect is officially called "Leyte-Samarnon." A decade before the end of Spanish sovereignty, it was dominantly a typical colonial community—most of its residents were either pure Iberian families or new generations of Spanish-Filipino blood.

The tourist spots in the city are the old Spanish edifices, the reminders of World War II, and the 2,162-meter San Juanico Bridge or Marcos Bridge, the longest in Asia, which was inaugurated by President Ferdinand E. Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, on July 2, 1973.

As originally known, Tacloban was derived from the word "Taklub," meaning "cover," a name alluded to the native's early means of catching fish, by bamboo. It was also believed

that the original settlement called *Kankabatok*, was ruled by Headman Khatok.

During the early Spanish rule, Leyte, like Samar, was under the jurisdiction of Cebu. Later, it was created into a separate political division. By 1735, Leyte became a politico-military province with jurisdiction over Samar.

In 1768, Leyte and Samar were separated, each constituted as politico-military province. The capital of Leyte was transferred from one town to another, with Tacloban as the last in 1872.

On May 25, 1942, the Japanese forces landed in Tacloban. They fortified the city, improved its airfield, and since the San Pedro Bay was ideal for larger vessels, the Japanese Imperial Naval Force made it a port of call and entry.

General Douglas MacArthur's assault troops landed on the Tacloban-Palo Beaches (White Beach and Red Beach) and on the neighboring town of Dulag (Blue Beach). On October 20, 1944, these landings signalled the eventual victory of the American forces and the fulfillment of MacArthur's famous promise of "I shall return!"

Three days later on the 23rd, at a ceremony in front of the capitol building in Tacloban, Leyte, General MacArthur, accompanied by President Sergio Osmeña, announced the reestablishment of the Commonwealth Government. President Osmeña made Tacloban the temporary seat of the Commonwealth. Subsequently, the provincial government of Leyte and the municipal government of Tacloban were reestablished.

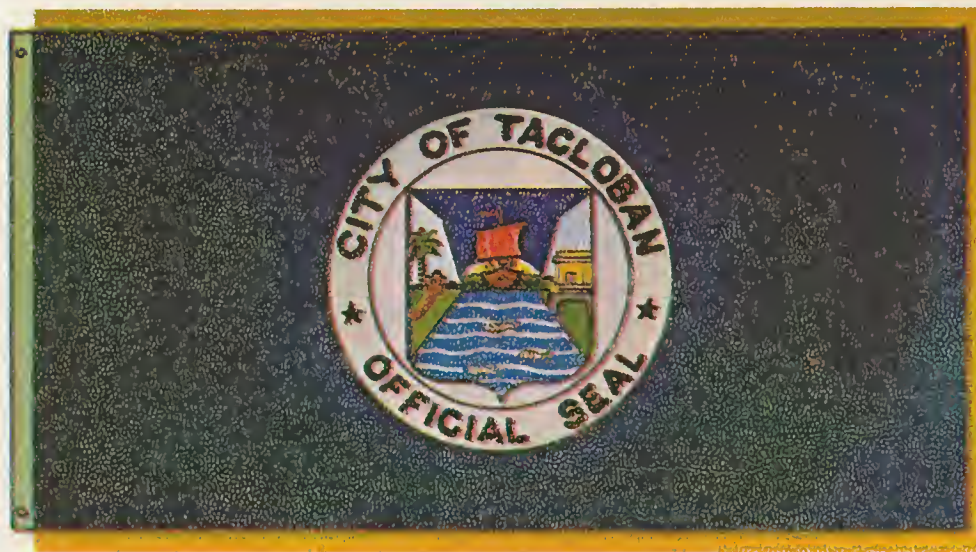
The Philippine Legislature passed a bill on June 20, 1952, converting Tacloban from a first class municipality to a chartered city by virtue of Republic Act No. 460, as amended by Republic Act No. 3068 in 1961.

On January 8, 1960, General Douglas MacArthur made his "sentimental" journey to Leyte, where he had previously landed in 1944.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



SAMPAGUITA  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF TACLOBAN

The City of Tacloban was created under R.A. 760 on June 20, 1952.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Tacloban

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Right Portion</i> | — Leyte side, where Tacloban City is located.  |
| <i>Left Portion</i>  | — sister province of Samar, major supplier of agricultural and sea products to the city thus stabilizing its volume of business and trade. |
| <i>Center</i>        | — the beautiful San Juanico Strait.  |
| <i>Galleon</i>       | — symbolizes the ship of Ferdinand Magellan on its way to Limasawa Island where the first mass on the Philippine soil was offered.         |



## Region IX

### HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BASILAN

THE CITY OF BASILAN, in the present Province of Basilan, is composed of the former poblacion of Isabela and all the barangays (Campong Baro, Binuangan, Tabiawan, Busay, Lanote, San Rafael, Mensi, Kumalarang and Kabong Bata) within a radius of three kilometers from said municipality. Formerly, the city comprised the island of Basilan (now a province) and the adjacent islands.

The island was explored by Governor General Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera in 1637. It was later evangelized by the Jesuit missionaries. In 1663, the Spanish troops in Basilan were withdrawn to Manila in preparation for the possible attack of Koxinga, a Chinese warlord. The military stations in the province were restored in 1747 and the fortifications, particularly the stone fort of *Fuerte de Isabel*, were constructed in 1844.

Aside from continuous Muslim raids, the Dutch and the French also attacked the province. In 1848, a garrison under the control of the governor of Zamboanga was established in Basilan.

When the American forces came in December 1899, Datu Pedro Cuevas helped the Americans in the pacification campaign. A civil government was established in 1901 and the island became a part of Zamboanga.

After the outbreak of World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces organized a puppet government in Isabela, with Elpidio Sta. Elena as mayor. Later, when the American Liberation Forces occupied Basilan, Leroy S. Brown became its military mayor.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 288, dated July 1, 1948, the Province of Basilan was created into a chartered city. Later, under Presidential Decree No. 356, signed on December 27, 1973, the City of Basilan was restored to its original status as a province. Subsequently, P.D. No. 593, dated December 2, 1974, amended P.D. No. 356. It defined the new boundaries of the City of Basilan which is now within the province. The law, however, provided that the capital of the Province of Basilan shall be at the Municipality of Isabela and the seat of government shall be at Barangay Begang.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



BANABA  
(*Lagerstroemia Speciosa*)  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF BASILAN

The City of Basilan was created under R.A. 288 on June 16, 1948

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Basilan

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Handshake</i>                  | — symbol of the abiding friendship and cooperation between the Christian and Muslim inhabitants of the city. |
| <i>Red Edging with Crosses</i>    | — represents Christianity.   |
| <i>Green Edging with Crescent</i> | — represents Mohammedanism.  |
| <i>Island</i>                     | — map of the city in a tranquil sea.   |
| <i>Rising Sun</i>                 | — represents peace and prosperity that prevails in the island city.  |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF DAPITAN

DAPITAN CITY is south of the Mindanao Sea, northeast of the Municipality of Polanco, north of the Municipality of New Piñan, and west of the Municipality of Rizal and the Province of Misamis Oriental.

From the original land area of 439.8 square kilometers as a town, its size had been increased to 29,521 as a city. There were about 1,000 tribute-paying *Indios* in 1630, 450 families in 1655, 6,337 souls in 1850, and about 8,000 to 9,000 persons in 1893, according to Dr. Jose Rizal's estimate. The census, however, reveals its population as 8,086 in 1903, 12,866 in 1908, 28,295 in 1939, 37,984 in 1948, 27,517 in 1960, 37,775 in 1970, and 42,000 in 1974.

Dapitan, as an ancient community, was known to early Kaerius in 1598, "Dapite" by Dudley in 1646, "Dapyte" by cartographers of maps of the Philippines as "Dapito" by Sanson in 1652, and "Dapitan" by Murilo Verde in 1734, and also by Moll in his map of the East Indies in 1729.

Another version stated that Dapitan was founded by the Boholanos before or after the coming of the Spaniards. The name Dapitan came from *Dapit* in Bisayan which means to *invite*, a rendezvous or meeting place of 800 families from Bohol (now Tagbilaran and the neighboring islets of Panglao). Prince Pagbuaya, after the death of his brother, Prince Dailisan of the kingdom of Panglao, from the hands of the treacherous Ternatans, led his followers (about 1,000 families, 500 slaves, and many other families of the Lutao nation) across the sea to Dapitan where they seized a small rugged hill.

Coinciding with the arrival of Legazpi, the king of Burney sent his emissary for an alliance with Prince Pagbuaya. The Prince, however, dismissed the Bornean ambassador and, instead, assisted Legazpi by giving pilots and guides who took the Spaniards to Chief Catunas in Bohol and then to Cebu.

In 1629, the Dapitan mission was founded by Pedro Gutierrez. Originally dependent on Cebu, the mission residence was transferred in 1639, with Iligan mission, to the Zamboanga residence; then in 1643, to the Loboc (Bohol) residence; and finally in 1645 or a little later, to Dapitan, with Iligan as its dependency. Its jurisdiction extended from Iligan, along the coast of Zamboanga, to Sindagan Bay.

From 1768 to 1864, the Dapitan mission was assigned to the Recollects, when the Jesuits were expelled until their return to the Philippines.

Politically, at the start, Dapitan was under the civil administration of Cebu until 1655 when it was transferred to Iligan. In 1850, it was made part of the province of Misamis. And in 1863, it was created as a politico-military *comandancia* which was dependent on Misamis.

In 1897, during the Philippine Revolution, Zamboanga was under the revolutionary leadership of Isidoro Medel and Melanio Ramos. A year after, the Philippine Revolutionary Government appointed General Vicente Alvarez, as Commander of the Filipino Forces in Zamboanga (of which Dapitan was an integral part), who defeated the Spanish garrison and controlled the province. At the close of the Spanish rule, in 1898, Mindanao, together with Sulu, was divided into seven districts with Zamboanga as one of the seven.

In 1903, under William H. Taft of the American administration, the Dapitan District, as a part of Zamboanga, was annexed to the *Provincia Mora* (Moro Province). In 1914, a civil government was established and Dapitan came under the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, later under the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes.

On June 6, 1952, under Republic Act No. 711, the Province of Zamboanga was divided into two: Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte. The Municipality of Dapitan, which belongs to Zamboanga del Norte, was then created as a city by virtue of Republic Act No. 3811, approved on June 22, 1963. The city was, however, inaugurated on November 8 of the same year.

Significantly, Dapitan City featured in Philippine history as the place of exile of our foremost national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, from July 17, 1892 to July 31, 1896. Three markers, aside from others in the shrine, are in the beach of Sta. Cruz, where Rizal disembarked; in the Casa Real, residence and administration building of the Politico Military Governor of the District, where the hero stayed until March 1893; and in the Saint James Church, where Rizal heard Mass every Sunday.



*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF DAPITAN

The City of Dapitan was created under R.A. 3811 on June 22, 1963.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Dapitan

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Five Stars</i>    | — represent the five (5) school districts of the City.  |
| <i>Coconut Trees</i> | — represent the main industry and product of Dapitan City.  |
| <i>Marker</i>        | — the historical marker found at the relief map of Mindanao constructed by Dr. Jose Rizal during his exile at the city. |
| <i>Banca</i>         | — symbol of the next major source livelihood of the city which is the fishing industry.                                 |
| <i>Year 1963</i>     | — date when the city was formally organized.  |



CADENA DE AMOR  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF DIPOLOG

THE CITY OF DIPOLOG, facing the Sindangan Bay, lies along the coastal plains of Zamboanga del Norte, just a few kilometers southwest of Dapitan. It is situated at the mouth of the Dipolog River and bounded on the north by the Dapitan Bay; on the south by the Municipality of Polanco, on the east by Dapitan City, and on the west by Dipolog Bay. The city has a land area of 220.00 square kilometers in the survey of 1970.

The city had a population of 5,204 in 1903, 15,982 in 1918, 31,604 in 1939, and 40,618 in 1948. Although the inhabitants decreased to 32,236 in 1960, after the area reduction, it again increased to 46,129 in 1970.

Dipolog was earlier referred to as "Dipoloc," "Dipolo," "Dipolog," and "Siripolo." The term Dipolog, from the Subano word *dipag* means "on the opposite bank or side of the river." Dipolog was believed to be originally inhabited by the Subanos (or Subanon), the river people.

After the Spaniards obtained a foothold in Mindanao, the Jesuit missionaries established a mission station in Dipolog, with Dapitan as their headquarters.

At the height of the Spanish conquest in Mindanao, the Muslim pirates raided and plundered the coastal towns. Dipolog then provided the Spaniards with a springboard for retaliatory attacks. The natives, Boholano settlers, and the missionaries organized themselves into a *pueblo* in Sianib, about 20 kilometers from the sea. Later, the township was transferred to Isab, Nipaan and a *capilla* was constructed on a hilltop. Again, the settlement was moved to a plain in sitio Tulwaan where, by order of the provincial governor of Misamis, a civil government was organized. In 1834, the town was finally transferred to the present site.

Dipolog was a municipality under Misamis Province, with

Cagayan de Misamis as the provincial capital. It remained as a dependency of Misamis up to the end of the Spanish rule.

In 1903, the president of the Second Philippine Commission, William H. Taft, who was then in Dapitan, decreed that the Dapitan District which included Dipolog and the neighboring towns should be separated from Misamis Province and be transferred to Zamboanga Province, one of the districts of the *Provincia Mora* (Moro Province).

The municipality of Dipolog was reverted into a barrio of Dapitan City on March 4, 1904. The Dipolognons, however, protested against the reversion. Hence, at the plaza of Dipolog, on July 1, 1913, General John J. Pershing, Governor of Mindanao and Sulu, announced Dipolog as an independent municipality, after the completion of the new *casa municipal*.

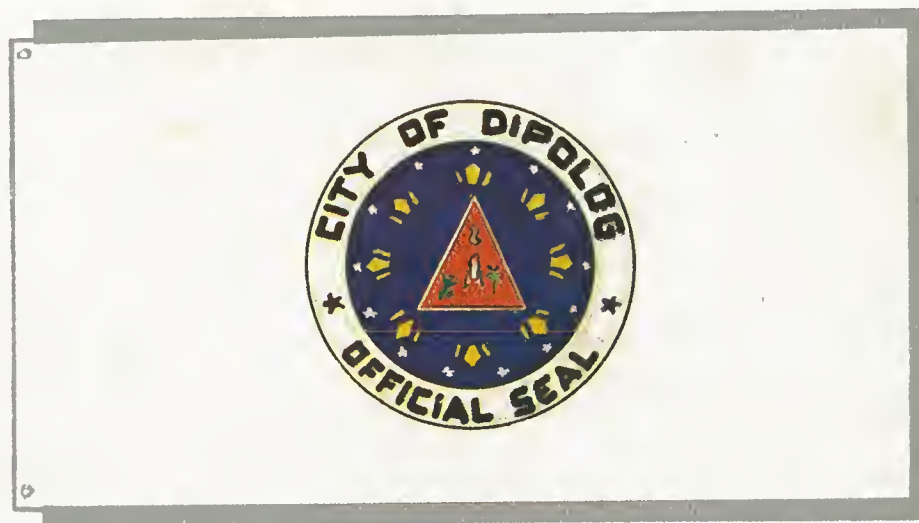
During the Second World War, Acting Governor Felipe B. Azcuna, under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, transferred the seat of the provincial government of Zamboanga to Dipolog. However, on June 16, 1948, President Elpidio Quirino signed Republic Act No. 286, which created the Municipality of Molave, and made it the "capital of the Province of Zamboanga: *Provided, however, That the necessary buildings to be used for housing the different offices of the provincial government of Zamboanga shall have been constructed in the said municipality, the Municipality of Dipolog shall continue to be the capital of the province.*"

Finally, on June 6, 1952, House Bill No. 2524 was passed into law as Republic Act No. 711. It divided Zamboanga into two: Zamboanga del Norte, with Dipolog as capital and Zamboanga del Sur, with Pagadian as capital. On July 21, 1969, Republic Act No. 5520 changed the Municipality of Dipolog into a chartered city and at the same time made it the provincial capital of Zamboanga del Norte.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF DIPOLOG

The City of Dipolog was created under R.A. 5520 on June 21, 1969.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Dipolog

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Fifteen Stars</i>         | — represent the fifteen (15) barrios comprising the city of Dipolog.            |
| <i>Eight Rays</i>            | — symbol of the first eight provinces which started the revolutionary movement. |
| <i>Sea Horse</i>             | — signifies that Dipolog City is a rich fishing ground.                         |
| <i>Rice Coconut and Corn</i> | — major crops grown in the city.  |
| <i>Apollo Sattelite</i>      | — symbol of the signing of the city charter.                                    |
| <i>Year 1970</i>             | — inauguration of the city.   |



CHAMPACA  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF PAGADIAN

THE CITY OF PAGADIAN, capital of Zamboanga del Sur, is situated in the eastern part of the Zamboanga Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Labangan, on the south by the Municipality of Dinas, on the east by the Pagadian Bay, and on the west by the Zamboanga mountain ranges. It is about 115 kilometers west of Ozamiz City (Misamis Occidental) and about 285 kilometers north of Zamboanga City.

Pagadian has a land area of 378.8 square kilometers and a population of 57,615 (51% in the urban area and 49% in the rural places) in 1970. Most of the settlers in the city are from Luzon and the Visayas. A majority of the populace are Cebuanos; hence, Cebuano-Visayan is the dominant dialect.

The city is an agricultural region with corn, its staple crop, as an important product. Aside from farming, the principal source of livelihood of the inhabitants is fishing. Salted or fresh fish constitutes an important export item. The noted cottage industries of the city are *bakya*, or wooden clog making, furniture making, and mat weaving.

The early settlers of the village were the Subanons who set up the fishing and trading village along the shore. They called their settlement as Pagadian, a corruption of the Maguindanao word "*Padian*," which means "marketplace." The present site of Pagadian was the old Muslim sitio of *Talapukan*, meaning "where the springs abound." It was under the municipal district of Labangan.

The region now called Zamboanga del Sur was once a part of the kingdom of Cachil Corralat or Kudarat. The Jesuit

fathers, who started the christianization of the natives in 1642, abandoned the missionary work in 1644 due to repeated Muslim raids.

In 1927, the first group of settlers, led by Mariano Cabrera, arrived at Pagadian. To attract more settlers, the Philippine Constabulary stationed a detachment at Dumagok Island in order to protect the inhabitants from occasional raids of the Maranaws.

On March 23, 1937, Executive Order No. 77 of President Manuel L. Quezon created the town of Pagadian. The municipality comprised the municipal districts of Labangan and Dinas. Jose Sanson became the first elected local executive.

During the Pacific War, before the Japanese forces occupied the town, the inhabitants evacuated to the highlands. Taking advantage of the situation, the Muslims plundered and looted Pagadian. After the war, in June 1945, public and private schools were opened in the municipality.

On June 21, 1969, Republic Act No. 5478 created the Municipality of Pagadian into a city.

Pagadian City is dubbed "as "the little Hongkong" of the Philippines because of its geographical similarity to the Crown Colony—at the foot of an irregular elevated land.

The city's panoramic tourist attractions are the beautiful islets, with Dumagok as the most popular, along the Illana Bay; and the boathouses of the Sicubong tribes which dot the Pagadian shorelines.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF PAGADIAN

The City of Pagadian was created under R.A. 5478 on June 21, 1969.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Pagadian

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Years and Stars</i>                                      | — 1937 is the date of creation of Pagadian as a regular municipality and 1969, its conversion into a chartered city; three stars in gold symbolize the three stages of political growth. |
| <i>Man on Carabao</i>                                       | — represents the pioneer farmers who blazed the trails for agricultural development.   |
| <i>Fishing Vinta, Coconut Land and Rice and Corn Fields</i> | — project the chief industries of the city.  |
| <i>Crescent and Cross</i>                                   | — the Muslim inhabitants and Christian population of the city.   |



WHITE ORCHID  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA

ZAMBOANGA CITY, oftentimes referred to as "Jambangan" or "the land of flowers," is located at the southern tip of Zamboanga Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, on the east by the Moro Gulf, on the south by the Basilan Strait, and on the west by the Sulu Sea.

The city has a land area of 1,414.7 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 199,901. It is classified as a first class city in 1974.

The town of Zamboanga was founded on June 23, 1635. It was also the date when Father Melchor de Vera, a Jesuit priest-engineer, together with some Spanish officials, laid the cornerstone for the construction of Fort Pilar.

Zamboanga was made the capital of the politico-military *comandancia* during the Spanish administration. It was also made the capital of the Moro Province, a semi-military regime instituted by the Americans from 1903 up to 1913. On recommendation of Governor John J. Pershing, the Legislative Council (governing body of the Moro Province) passed, on September 15, 1911, Act No. 272, which converted the Municipality of Zamboanga into a city, with a commission form of government. When the Department of Mindanao and Sulu replaced the Moro Province in 1914, Zamboanga, as a commission, was abolished and it was reverted to its original status of municipality admin-

istered by a municipal president and several councilors. It remained as the capital of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu with a civil government under an American civil governor from 1913 up to 1920.

After the Department was abolished in 1920, the region was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes.

On September 23, 1936, the National Assembly of the Commonwealth of the Philippines passed a bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Juan S. Alano, which sought the conversion of the Municipality of Zamboanga into a chartered city. President Manuel L. Quezon approved the bill, known as Commonwealth Act No. 39, or "The Charter Act of 1936." The city was inaugurated on February 26, 1937.

Zamboanga City, as a tourist spot, has several historical landmarks: Zamboanga Capitol Building, Plaza Pershing, Fort Pilar, Pettit Barracks, Zamboanga Gulf and Country Club, Zamboanga "Yellow Beach," and Pasonanca Park.

Two cultures have left distinctive imprints in the city. The *Chabacano* dialect, a mixture of Spanish, Tagalog, Visayan and Muslim, is spoken by a majority of the population. The presence of mosques, Muslim centers of worship, reminds one that Zamboanga City, then, as now, is a part of the Muslim community.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF ZAMBOANGA

The City of Zamboanga was created under C.A. 39 on October 12, 1936.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Zamboanga

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Upper Portion</i>     | — the crescent in argent (silver) on a field of green represents the muslim population, while the Latin Cross in argent on a field of are (gold) represents the Christian population. |
| <i>Fort and Building</i> | — Fort Pilar, then the provincial capitol building, now the City Hall of Zamboanga.   |
| <i>Moro Vinta</i>        | — projects the culture, history and ideals of the city.   |
| <i>Zamboanga</i>         | — symbolizes Zamboanga as the country's premier land of fish.   |



**BOUGAINVILLEA**  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BUTUAN

BUTUAN CITY lies in the broad coastal plains of Northern Mindanao, at the mouth of the Rio Grande de Agusan. It has a land area of 758 square kilometers—bounded by the municipalities of Tubay and Cabadbaran in the north, Las Nieves and Esperanza in the south, Surigao Province in the east, and Buenavista in the west.

It has a pleasant and healthful climate. Due to its strategic location, Butuan became a prosperous trading center. Many people from the Visayas, Bicol and Luzon have immigrated to this "Timber City" of the south. According to the *Censo Oficial*, Butuan had only 12,013 inhabitants in 1887. Its population as of 1970 was 131,094.

Before the Spaniards came to the Philippines, the village was already a flourishing settlement. The Portuguese and Chinese, who had known the Far East earlier than the Spaniards, traded extensively with its inhabitants.

Butuan, called after the river of the same name, was said to be the first place where Magellan anchored, at the mouth of the Agusan River in 1521, on his way to Cebu from Limasawa.

The first mission church was founded by the Jesuits on September 8, 1597. Later, the town of Butuan was assigned to the Recollect Fathers. During that time, Butuan was heavily attacked by the Joloans and Borneans. To protect the natives against Muslim piratical incursions, churches and forts were built of heavy palisades and stones. In 1624, Fray Juan de San Nicolas constructed the first church, under the patronage of Saint Joseph, which not only served as a religious center but also as a bastion and watchtower. At Bacao-ag, a convent was constructed in 1646 under the supervision of Father Prior Fray Jacinto de San Fulgencio. There were only six *visitas*, namely, Talacogon, Linao, Tubay, Jabonga, Mainit and Hingoog.

Although the security of Butuan was maintained by the regular troops, the priests also went to the battlefield, using the Cross as a powerful weapon for peaceful persuasion. Two of the fighting Recollect *padres* were Fray Alonzo de San Joseph and Fray Pedro de San Antonio, who both died in combat on June 22, 1632 in Bacao-ag. Another brave Father, Agustin de San Pedro, called *El Padre Capitan*, heroically led the people in their fight against the Muslims.

In 1768, the Jesuits were expelled from the Philippines, but they were later recalled in 1859 to resume the evangelization of Mindanao and Sulu. During this period, Butuan was not only a center of religious administration but a thriving commercial town in Northern Mindanao.

After the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, the town was affected only in 1898, after the guerrilla troops were organized by Gumersindo Flores of Butuan and Andres Atoga of Cabadbaran. In 1901, when an encounter took place at San Mateo, Father Saturnino Urios diplomatically persuaded the insurgents to lay down their arms.

Upon the establishment of a civil government in 1901 under the Special Provincial Government Act, a law was passed providing for the establishment of Agusan with two subprovinces, Butuan and Bukidnon. The town of Butuan, situated about five miles up the Agusan River, became the capital of Agusan, and Frederick Johnson, a captain of the Philippine Constabulary, was appointed governor of the Province of Agusan.

Butuan was one of the towns that heavily bore the brunt of the Japanese occupation. In 1942, the guerrilla troops under Colonel Ernesto McLish attacked Butuan and cleared all enemy positions along the banks of the Agusan River. Public and private buildings were destroyed but the people rebuilt the town after the American Liberation Forces came in 1945.

Since then, Butuan's local affairs became complicated for a provincial executive to administer. Considering the simplification and efficient functioning of the government in the vast Agusan Province, Butuan was created into a city by virtue of Republic Act No. 523, approved on June 15, 1950.

Historically, a monument was erected in 1872 at Barrio Magallanes, Butuan, to mark the site where the first mass was supposed to have been said in the Philippines. However, "Pigafetta records that the first mass was celebrated on Easter Sunday, 31 March 1521, at Limasawa Island." As Magellan's chronicler, he stated that the expedition came upon an island (Limasawa) where the Spaniards met Rajah Colambu, the native chief of Butuan and Calagan.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**BOUGAINVILLEA**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF BUTUAN**

The City of Butuan was created under R.A. 523 on June 15, 1950.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Butuan**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Two Spears</i>          | — connotes that Butuan City was the center of a flourishing Malayan culture.  |
| <i>Logs, Mills and Saw</i> | — depict the economic life of the city. Logs are the main product of the city and either exported or processed into lumber and plywood. |
| <i>Coconut</i>             | — second major product of the city.   |
| <i>Dominant Shades</i>     | — traditional Manobo colors.  |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO

THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO in the Province of Misamis Oriental is bounded on the north by the Majalajar Bay, on the south and east by the Province of Bukidnon, and on the west by the town of Manticao. The city is a center of economic and cultural activities in northern Mindanao.

Cagayan de Oro has a land area of 412.8 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 128,319.

The village was originally a part of the Kingdom of Sultan Kudarat, and its early settlers were of Malayan origin. Before the Recollects established their missions in 1622, the settlement suffered much from Muslim raids; but these piratical activities were checked by the strong defenses organized by the Cagayanos under the command of the Recollect Fathers. In 1649, the Manobos razed the town to the ground.

In December 1898, before the Spaniards evacuated Misamis, the Spanish governor organized a committee of five Filipinos, and turned over the government to them. One of these men declared himself governor of Misamis and organized the government in accordance with the provisions of the decree of General Emilio Aguinaldo on June 18, 1898. On January 2, 1899, Aguinaldo appointed two commissioners in order to hold elections and establish a new government in Cagayan de Oro and Surigao.

When the American forces came in 1899, the local armed forces were organized by General Nicolas Capistrano in the eastern part, and Major Justo Gaerlan in the western part of the Province of Misamis Oriental. On January 30, 1900, Brigadier General John C. Bates attempted to occupy the town. Later, in March of the same year, the American and Filipino forces bitterly fought each other in the present sites of Pabayo and

Chacon streets. Two months after, the American battleship *Arayat* bombarded the town, and, on the 17th, the American troops landed in Bayabas at the mouth of Cagayan River. Capistrano and his leaders were captured by the enemy under Major James F. Case in April 1901.

Cagayan de Oro felt the ravages of the Pacific War when the Japanese Air Force bombed Camp Evangelista on December 22, 1941. The Kawamura Detachment sailed from Iloilo on May 1, 1942 and landed on the coast of Cagayan Bay on the 3rd. The town was subsequently made a Japanese Supply Center of the northern Mindanao area.

The "Free Cagayan" movement under Governor Pedro Baculio and Herminigildo Avanceña fled to the hills; hence, Governor Jose Artadi and Mayor Pedro Mabuhay took over the reigns of the municipal administration of the town. Three years later, on May 10, 1945, the Allied Forces occupied and captured Cagayan de Oro from the Japanese invaders. With the passage of Republic Act No. 521 on June 15, 1950, the town of Cagayan de Oro became a city.

On June 18, 1966, Republic Act No. 4663 created the Cagayan de Oro Port Authority in order to administer, manage, develop, improve, integrate, coordinate and otherwise mobilized terminal facilities in the area. The Port of Cagayan de Oro is considered as an important port of call in northern Mindanao.

Some of the tourist spots in the city are the Xavier University and its Museum, a rich showcase of Christian and Muslim art and culture; the Catanico Falls, in the city outskirts; and the Macahambus Cave, the last stronghold of the Filipino forces who fought the American forces during the Filipino-American War in the Philippines.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO

The City of Cagayan de Oro was created under R.A. 521 on June 15, 1950.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cagayan de Oro

*Coconut and Pineapple* — represent the city's two known and main export products.

*Cornucopia* — signifies non-extravagance and thrift of its people; their fore-parents used it as piggy banks.

*Three Stars*

*Two Spanish Galleons*

— represent the three geographical islands of the Philippines.

— signifies that the city has engaged in trade even before the coming of the spaniards to our country.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF GINGOOG

THE CITY OF GINGOOG, in Misamis Oriental, lies on the coastal plains along the Gingoog Bay of Northern Mindanao. Situated between two rivers (Maanas and Gingoog), Gingoog, which looks like a horseshoe-shaped city, is partly surrounded by mountains covered by dense forest. It is bounded on the north by the Gingoog Bay, on the south by the Municipality of Claveria, on the east by Agusan Province, and on the west by the Municipality of Medina.

The city has a land area of 404.6 square kilometers and a population of 65,513 in 1970.

During the Spanish period, the settlement was sometimes referred to as "Hingooc," "Hingoog," and "Pingoog." As early as 1750, it was administered by the Recollect Augustinians under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Cebu. These missionaries built the first church and convent of the town.

Like all other villages of the Visayas and Mindanao, Gingoog was not spared from the Muslim attacks. In the 18th century, they landed at Gingoog and hindered the work of the missionaries.

On November 2, 1929, Act No. 3537 divided the Province of Misamis into two: Misamis Oriental and Misamis Occidental. Ten years later, its implementing amendment, Act No. 3777, was approved on November 28, 1939. Gingoog was then classified as one of the municipalities of Misamis Oriental.

During World War II, a Japanese detachment landed at Bogo, about 4 kilometers east of Cagayan de Oro in Misamis Oriental. The 61st Field Artillery and 81st Field Artillery of the Philippine Army repulsed them but the enemy established a beachhead which sealed the northern approach to the Filipino

headquarters at Del Monte, Bukidnon. The 93rd Infantry which came to the rescue stopped the Japanese forces for three days.

During the Japanese occupation, Major Juan A. Rivera established his headquarters at Gingoog although the province was controlled by the enemy. The united forces of the guerrillas in the Mindanao area finally liberated the people from the Japanese Imperial Forces.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 2668, the Municipality of Gingoog was created into a chartered city on June 18, 1960.

Aside from the big lumber concessions, vast coffee plantations were opened from the abandoned areas of the highlands of the city. Thousands of landless settlers from the Visayas and Mindanao came when the Government reclassified these idle lands for agricultural purposes. The soil technologists have found the slopes of Samay, Balason and Kalagonoy mountains (2,000 to 3,000) as most fertile and suitable to coffee culture. The other portions are planted with abaca, rice and other crops.

Gingoog City, with a good market and many stores, refreshment parlors, bakeries and restaurants, has now thriving coffee farms which constitute one of the major dollar-saving industries, next in importance to the multi-million-peso logging, lumber and plywood industries. Two of the biggest pioneer lumbering concerns in the Philippines, Sta. Clara Lumber Co., Inc., and the Anakan Lumber Co., Inc., operate their concessions under modern methods of logging in the city. Several transportation facilities, banking institutions, and hotel accommodations serve the city residents and visitors.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



RED GUMAMELA  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF GINGOOG

The City of Gingoog was created under R.A. 2668 on June 18, 1960.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Gingoog

#### *Crops*

— coconut, coffee, banana, cacao and log—main products and sources of income when Gingoog was made into a Chartered City in 1960.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ILIGAN

THE CITY OF ILIGAN stands as a "sentinel" of Lanao Province. It is situated on the flat coastal plains and bounded on the north and northeast by the Province of Misamis Oriental and Iligan Bay, on the south and southwest by the municipalities of Baloi and Malingao, on the east by the Province of Bukidnon, and on the west by the Municipality of Linamon.

It has a land area of 730.5 square kilometers and a population of 2,872 in 1903, 4,936 in 1918, 28,273 in 1939, 25,725 in 1948, 58,433 in 1960, and 104,198 (52,261 males and 51,837 females) in 1970.

In 1642, Father Diego Patino christianized the natives, mostly Subanos, who were considered heathens and not mahometans. The settlement was ministered by the Society of Jesus, under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Cebu. Father Ignacio Navarro attended to the spiritual needs of the settlers, including some Muslims from Lake Malanao. In 1768, when the Jesuit missionaries were expelled from the Philippines, the natives were left to the care of the Augustinian Recollects.

Like the other coastal settlements, Iligan was also constantly attacked by the Muslims, as retaliatory actions against the Spanish intruders. In 1639, on order of Governor General Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera, Captain Francisco de Atienza y Vañez, a tried warrior from Toledo, Spain, constructed six collapsible boats, each capable of carrying 50 to 100 men, to be assembled at Lake Lanao. As incharge of Iligan, and after receiving suggestions from Father Fray Agustin (known as *Padre Capitan*) on the military technique and strategy against the Muslim strongholds, he led an expedition to Malanao. After the fall of Marawi to the Spaniards, the Muslims continued to harass the enemy on the sea and on the land. They even cut off the supply route from Iligan, causing Atienza to pull back and fortify Iligan from the increasing Muslim attacks.

In later years, the poblacion of Iligan began to sink. Another fort was built by *Gobernadorcillo* Remigio Cabili and the

town was transferred to its present site.

After Corcuera's rule, the Maranaos were left to themselves, almost to the end of the Spanish rule.

With Iligan as a springboard, the Spanish troops were again sent to Marawi in 1891. Governor General Eulogio Despujol continued the campaign to subjugate the lake region. However, it was Governor Ramon Blanco who established the Spanish power in the region. In 1894, Blanco, with 3,000 men under the immediate command of General Parrado, landed in Iligan and succeeded in conquering the Muslim *cottas* and the stronghold of Marahui, known as the strongest in Lanao.

In 1896, when the Philippine Revolution broke out, an insurrection also occurred in Iligan. Three years later, the *gobernadorcillo* abandoned the town, and Captain Hilarion Ramiro took over the reins of the government. He received the American forces under the command of Captain Smith who landed at Iligan in 1900.

During the Pacific War, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Iligan. An active guerrilla movement was organized in the province with its base at Liangan, Lanao. In 1944, most of the Japanese troops abandoned the area and then shifted their activities to Central Mindanao.

On June 16, 1950, by virtue of Republic Act No. 525, President Elpidio Quirino proclaimed the town of Iligan as a city. He also announced the development of Iligan City as the "nucleus" of the country's steel industry, in line with his plan of total economic mobilization for the country. Thus, the Maria Cristina Falls which is one of the eight waterfalls in Iligan, was tapped by the National Power Corporation to provide electric power for the industrial metropolis.

Iligan City not only offers opportunities for industrial and commercial purposes but also spectacular scenery for nature lovers.





*City Seal*



BUTTERFLY ORCHID  
(PINK)  
*City Flower*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF ILIGAN

The City of Iligan was created under R.A. 525 on June 16, 1950.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Iligan

<i>Color Scheme</i>	— maroon and green is a common Muslim color combination; green also symbolizes that Iligan is an agricultural city.
<i>Cross Over Crescent and Star</i>	— symbolizes muslim-christian population.
<i>Wheel</i>	— symbol of labor and progress of Iligan, an industrial city.
<i>Falls</i>	— the famous Maria Christina Falls.
<i>Building with Smokestack</i>	— represents the numerous factories that abound in the city making it the industrial city of the south.
<i>Prow of a Ship</i>	— signifies that Iligan is a port of entry.
<i>Wire-towar and Building</i>	— indicates that the Maria Cristina Falls is harnessed to generate the power that Northern Mindanao now enjoys.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF MARAWI

MARAWI CITY, the capital of Lanao del Sur, is located on the shores of Lake Lanao, some 2,300 feet above sea level. It has a land area of 6,400 hectares, a population of 55,209 in 1970, and a cool climate almost the year round. The city is bounded on the north by the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro; east, by the cities of Butuan and Cagayan de Oro; south, by the city of Davao; west, by the cities of Pagadian and Zamboanga; southwest, by the Province of Cotabato; and northwest, by the City of Ozamis.

Marawi was already a settlement of the Maranaos, a highly cultured tribed with an organized government headed by a *datu*, before the Spaniards came in the 16th century.

For more than two centuries, from 1637 to 1895, the Spaniards launched a series of campaigns to conquer the lake regions and to subject the Maranaos to their colonial rule. In spite of all these years, and until their withdrawal from the Philippines in 1898, the Spaniards never completely conquered the lake regions.

Although the first campaign was launched in 1637, during the administration of Governor General Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera (1635-1644), it was formally undertaken only in 1639. After a bloody battle on April 4, Marawi was captured by the Spanish troops led by Captain Francisco de Atienza y Vañez, a tried warrior, and Agustin de San Pedro, a Recollect missionary.

The elusive Maranaos fled; but they continued harassing the Spaniards who were building a fort. The Spanish troops later withdrew and further attempts to recapture the fort were unsuccessful.

The campaign was resumed in 1891 when Governor General Valeriano Weyler (1888-1891) himself took command of the expedition. Marawi, although defended by Datu Amat Amai Pakpak, was captured by Gov. Weyler's troops on August 19, 1891. From the hills where they fled, the Maranaos retaliated and drove out the Spanish forces. Governor Weyler returned to Manila without conquering the Maranaos.

Another campaign led by General Parrado in 1895, during Governor General Ramon Blanco's administration (1893-1896), was more successful. On March 10, his troops defeated in a bloody encounter the Maranaos led again by the brave Datu

Amai Pakpak. With equal bravery and heroism, many lives were lost on both side. The Spaniards, however, emerged victorious.

Despite periodic attacks from the vanquished Maranaos, a politico-military government was organized in Lanao on October 8, 1895, by virtue of a gubernatorial decree signed in Marawi.

Victory for the Spaniards was short-lived in Marawi. On May 1, 1898, the Spanish fleet was defeated by the American navy at the Battle of Manila Bay. The Spaniards in Marawi were therefore evacuated to Zamboanga prior to their departure for Spain. In 1900, the Americans captured Marawi.

In 1906, Marawi was organized into the "Village of Dansalan" with A. Owen Seaman as acting president. A year after, on May 24, the village was organized into a regular municipality by virtue of an act of the Moro Province Legislative Council. Lt. Jesse Gaston of the United States Army was appointed as its first municipal president.

When the Department of Mindanao and Sulu was organized by the Americans, Lanao, one of the five districts of the old Moro Province, was made a province with its capital at Dansalan in 1914. Introduced by Tomas Cabili (then assemblyman), Commonwealth Act No. 592, approved on August 19, 1940, created the City of Dansalan. However, before the city government could be inaugurated, World War II broke out in December 1941.

On May 1, 1942, the Japanese planes heavily bombarded Marawi and its army occupied the city. Consequently, guerrilla movements were organized; and the Americans and the Maranaos fought side by side against the common enemy, until their victory in 1945.

In 1950, Cabili (then Senator) and Congressman Mohammad Ali Dimaporo, finally inaugurated the city government on September 30 of the same year. On June 16, 1956, Republic Act No. 1552 amended the charter of the City of Dansalan, changing its name to "Marawi" and making elective the positions of mayor, vice-mayor, and councilors. During the first city election in 1959, Hadji Macapado Balaia became the first city mayor.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF MARAWI

The City of Marawi was created under R.A. 592 on August 19, 1940.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Marawi

#### *Symbolic Sun*

—symbol of the Divine Providence which shines forth over the city, considered today as the seat of Philippine Muslim culture.

#### *Crescent Moon*

—symbol of the Muslim faith which is the predominant religion of its people, called **Maranons**, and its rich Arabic culture which they have preserved in spite of Spanish and American influence.

#### *Red Portion*

—stands for the bravery and heroism of its people.

#### *Green Portion*

—symbolizes agriculture which is the main industry of the city. The map stands for the city itself which is located on the shores of Lake Lanao.



**WALING-WALING**  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF OROQUIETA

On the northwestern shores of northern Mindanao, along the coastline of the D-shaped Misamis Occidental, lies Oroquieta City, the capital of the province. It has a land area of 23,109 hectares and, in 1970, a population of 38,470 industrious, peaceful and hospitable people. The city, composed of 43 barrios, is a fertile agricultural plain of the flat coastal area that stretches from north to south in the province. With a fair climate seldom visited by twphoons, it extensively grows rice, corn, root crops and vegetables. Coconut, however, is its main product.

Oroquieta City is in the middle of the crossroads. It is only 51 kilometers from Baliangao, the last municipality in the north towards the highway to Dapitan City, and about 84 kilometers from Tangub along the road to Aurora in Zamboanga del Sur. It is also a terminal point of the Pagadian-Oroquieta road which passes through Aurora, and the junction where the Dapitan highway meets the Lanao-Misamis route in northern Mindanao. Although there are good roads and bridges leading to the capital city, the principal means of transportation is by water. Its port, Loboc, is 1.8 kilometers from the city proper. It is thus reached by ferryboat and launches from Iligan City which is just across Panguil Bay. Besides the land and water transportation facilities, Oroquieta also enjoys the convenience of air travel.

The city started as a barrio inhabited by Christians and Subanons and 20 houses. Named Jimenez, it was later called Layawan until 1879. The small village in 1750 is situated on the seacoast near the mouth of a river with Langaran in the northwest and Palilan in the south. At that time, it terribly suffered from the attacks of Muslims who killed the *gobernadorcillo*, enslaved the inhabitants, and built their fortifications. In 1870, the town of 5,682 residents was established, with Manuel

Barrientos, popularly known as *Capitan Awing*, as its first *gobernadorcillo*.

Oroquieta was believed by some to have been coined from the words "oro" and "quieta" because the place was abundant with gold and peaceful. Others claimed that it was in honor of Governor General Oroquieta. Another group, however, insists that it was named after a barrio in Spain where Fr. Tomas Casudo, the first parish priest in Oroquieta, and General Domingo Moriones, a hero in the battle of Oroquieta, were born. One version further states that the name Oroquieta was taken after Bishop Oroquieta who visited the town.

During the Philippine-American War, the American detachment in the town convent, in retaliation for the death of a soldier, killed hundreds of natives.

Oroquieta's first public school was organized under an American Supervisor named Leece. In the province, from 1916 to 1920, Oroquieta was the only town with complete elementary schools and, from 1924 to 1941, the only municipality with a private school.

When the Japanese forces occupied the town during World War II, the government of Oroquieta was transferred to Tuburan. Many of its people were captured and killed by the invaders.

On June 21, 1969, Republic Act No. 5518 created the City of Oroquieta covering all the barrios and sitios comprising the municipality of Oroquieta in the Province of Misamis Occidental.

Today, the chartered capital city, quiet and free from the excitement of a busy commercial center, has an imposing concrete capitol—the first of its kind in Mindanao and the pride of Misamis Occidental.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**GUMAMELA**  
*City Flower*

## **CITY OF OROQUIETA**

The City of Oroquieta was created under R.A. 5518 on June 21, 1969.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Oroquieta**

- Outer and Inner Cords* — represent the coconut coir product made out of coconut husk;  
*bordering the seal*
- Coconuts* — represents the principal product of Oroquieta City and the main source of livelihood;
- Red V* — a dessicated coconut factory which represents the main buyer of coconut products.
- Rice and Corn fields* — represent the second source of livelihood of Oroquieta.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF OZAMIZ

OZAMIZ CITY, at the western entrance of Panguil Bay, is located on the southeastern part of Misamis Occidental. It is bounded by the Municipality of Clarin on the north, Iligan Bay on the east, a portion of Panguil Bay on the southeast, and Tangub City on the south and west.

The city has a land area of 144.2 square kilometers. It had a population of 36,313 in 1939 and 64,643 in 1970.

It produces cacao, rice, abaca, fruits and vegetables. The principal industries are agriculture, weaving and fishing.

Because of its strategic location during the Spanish conquest of Mindanao, Jesuit Father Jose Ducos built a *cota* or fortress in the present location of the city. It served as the main bastion of a big Spanish task force against the Muslims and Portuguese. This fort became the nucleus of the town of Misamis which subsequently became an ecclesiastical center of northern Mindanao. Its patron saint was the Blessed Virgin Mary, called the Immaculate Conception.

The Jesuits maintained a strong fleet under the flagship "Triumfo." They called the bastion "Triumfo" and the image of Our Lady, *Nuestra Señora de Triumfo*.

In 1850, the town of Misamis became the capital of the District of Misamis, then composed of the present provinces of Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon and Camiguin.

The Recollect Fathers undertook the spiritual ministration of Misamis in 1769.

After the Filipino-American War, the Americans established a civil government in Misamis on May 15, 1901.

In 1912, the Philippine Independent Church gained a foothold although the Catholic missionaries had been established earlier in the province. In 1920, when many settlers from Bohol and Cebu arrived in Mindanao, the town of Misamis became a trading center.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Japanese troops encountered in a bloody battle the Filipino soldiers under the command of Major Lucas Naranjo in Baga. On May 18, 1943, the Women's Auxiliary Service led by Josefa Borromeo Capistrano was organized. The unit was composed of courageous women of Misamis Occidental who assisted the Tenth Military District under Colonel Wendell W. Fertig.

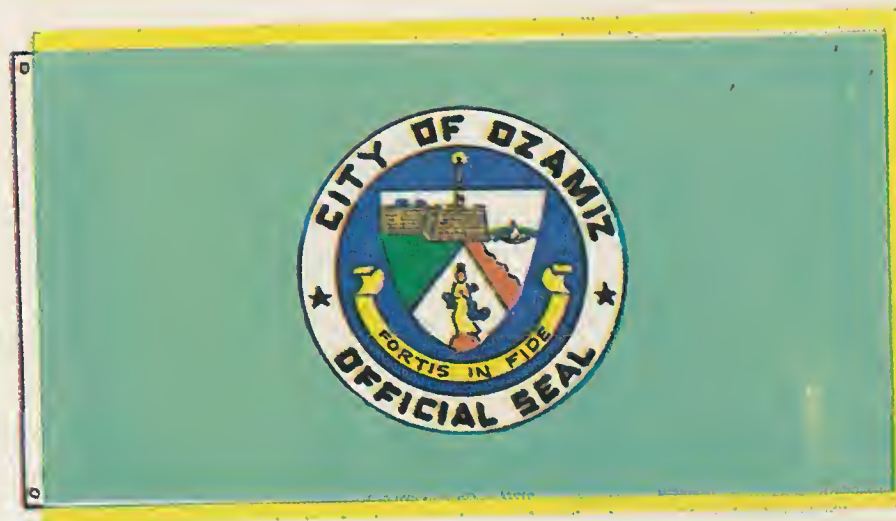
On June 19, 1948, by virtue of Republic Act No. 321, the town of Misamis was created into a chartered city. It was named Ozamiz in honor of the late Jose Ozamiz, a senator who became a hero of World War II. The city was inaugurated on July 16, 1948. In 1952, the city was also created as a prelature by the Holy See, with Msgr. Patrick Cronin as its first bishop.

Some of the historical features of the city are the collection of Chinese vases and jars, dating back to the pre-Spanish period, which are mostly owned by the Subanons, a Muslim group inhabiting the Malindang mountains; the four giant German bells at Bukagan Hill (said to have *do, re, me* and *sol* sounds); and the Cathedral of Ozamiz with an organ described as "the largest and finest in the country."





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



**GARDENIA**  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF OZAMIS

The City of Ozamis was created under R.A. 321 on June 19, 1948.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Ozamis

#### *Structure*

— *cotta*, spanish Fort Santiago and oldest structure in the city; also a symbol of the heritage and peace and order in the city.

#### *Blessed Virgin*

— patron saint of the city.

#### *Inscription*

— motto of the city—“*Fortes en Fide*”, meaning strength in faith.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SURIGAO

THE CITY OF SURIGAO nestles along the northernmost tip of the Province of Surigao del Norte where mountains and hills are prominent indentions throughout the coast. It is bounded on the north and east by the Hinatuan Passage, on the west by the Surigao Strait, and on the south by Tagana-an.

The city has a land area of 245.3 square kilometers and a population of 35,855 inhabitants in 1970. It has an ideal port which is shielded by the Nonoc Islands. It is also connected with good roads to Butuan City and Lianga, both in Agusan del Norte.

Legendarily, the town of Surigao was a thriving settlement ruled by Chief Solibao. When the Spaniards came, they called the place "Surigao", but during the arrival of early Christian missionaries in the province, it was better known as "Caraga," from the name of its inhabitants—the "Caragas" of the Visayan stock—warlike, brave and ferocious.

The settlement of the early colonizers in Bilang-bilang Harbor, where the present city is located, became ideal centers of trade, commerce and religion. The village had been transferred from one place to another. On June 29, 1655, Surigao became a town and by 1751, it was made the seat of the provincial government, after Caolo, the former provincial capital, was burned. Since then, the town of Surigao became a center of Spanish political and ecclesiastical power in the region, rivalled only by Tandag on the southeastern coast of Surigao Province.

The town suffered severely from Muslim raids. In 1752,

after the town was devastated, almost all of its 2,000 inhabitants were either killed or taken as slaves by the Muslims.

During World War II, on May 23, 1942, the Japanese Imperial Forces under Captain Yusee occupied Surigao. The local government was then managed by Mayor Amat. Later, after the American planes bombed Bilang-bilang harbor on September 9, 1944, the American troops and guerrilla units forced the Japanese forces to withdraw until Surigao was liberated on April 12, 1945.

In July 1945, the Philippine Civil Affairs Unit (PCAU) took over the local government, prior to the restoration of the administration to the local authorities.

During the Commonwealth period, Protolico Egay was appointed by the guerrillas as governor of Surigao Province and Macario Diaz, who resumed his office on September 1, 1945, as mayor of the town of Surigao. He was succeeded by the guerrilla-appointed mayor, Juan Parrucho.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 2786, dated June 19, 1960, the old Province of Surigao was divided into Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte, with the Municipality of Surigao as the capital of the latter. Surigao became a chartered city under Republic Act No. 6134, which was approved on August 31, 1970.

Surigao City is noted for its proximity to the almost fathomless underwater gorge, the "Philippine Deep," which is one of the deepest portions in the Pacific Ocean, including all other oceans in the world.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*



ROSAL  
*City Flower*

## CITY OF SURIGAO

The City of Surigao was created under R.A. 6134 on August 31, 1970.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Surigao

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Miner and Tools</i> | — signifies that mining is the prime industrial and economic concern of the city.  |
| <i>Three Islands</i>   | — biggest island is Nonoc Island (golden), site of the mining complex of the Surigao Nickel Project, biggest nickel mine in the country; its red hills are known as the biggest depository of nickel in the world. |



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TANGUB

TANGUB CITY, located in the northern tip of the D-shaped province of Misamis Occidental, is bounded on the north and east by Ozamiz City; on the south by the Panguil Bay; and on the west by the town of Bonifacio.

The city has a land area of 119.2 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 30,918.

Tangub is famous for fish, shrimp and crab. Rice, corn and coconuts are grown in the area. The supplementary income of the people is obtained from rope-making, basketry, pottery, nipa thatch-making, fishing and farming.

The present site of Tangub was formerly a fishing village peopled by the Subanons of northern Mindanao. Their houses were scattered in different places within the village ruled by a chief called *Pangpang*. This village, named *Bawang*, is the present City of Tangub.

When the Spanish exploring party landed at the settlement, they asked for the name of the place. The Subanons answered the hungry strangers "*Tangub*," pointing to the "rice container." Since then the Spaniards called the place Tangub.

In 1924, the residents of Tangub worked for the creation of the Municipality of Tangub through the assistance of the

late Senator Jose A. Clarin. Its separation from the former town of Misamis (now Ozamiz City) was finally approved by the Philippine Legislature in 1929. The municipality was inaugurated on January 1, 1930, and Timoteo Engracia became the first elected town *presidente*.

On April 1, 1930, Tangub was officially proclaimed as the Municipality of Regidor, in honor of Dr. Antonio Ma. Regidor, exile of 1872 and reformer. A majority of the residents did not like the idea of changing the name of their town; hence, a legislative measure was passed restoring the name of Tangub.

Under Republic Act No. 5131, the municipality was created as a city on June 17, 1957. The city was inaugurated on February 28, 1968.

Tangub was declared as the cleanest city in 1965 and 1968. In 1967, the police department was considered as the best organized in Mindanao.

Tangub City is predominantly peopled by Cebuano-speaking settlers from Cebu, Bohol, and the other neighboring provinces of the Visayas. The hardy and adventurous settlers from Luzon, mostly Ilocanos, intermingle with the equally hard-working and thrifty Visayans.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF TANGUB

The City of Tangub was created under R.A. 5131 on June 17, 1967.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Tangub

*Sea or Bay*

— represents the panoramic view of Panguil Bay which is rich in crabs, shrimps, shells, fish and prawns.

*Bridge*

— represents the dream of the people in Tangub City of the proposed bridge connecting the city

*Mountain*

and Tubod, Lanao del Norte.  
— beautiful Malindang Mountain in front of which are plains, hills, plateaus and valleys of rich soil planted to corn, coconut, rice and root crops—main products of the city.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF DAVAO

DAVAO CITY is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Kapalong, on the northeast by the Municipalities of Panabo and Sto. Tomas, on the south by the Municipality of Sta. Cruz (all in the province of Davao), on the east by the Gulf of Davao, and on the west by Mount Apo and the Province of Cotabato.

In land area, it is five times bigger than Manila. A city of 244,000 hectares, 25,000 of which are still virgin land, it extends 30 kms. northward, 29 kms. southward, and 60 kms. westward to Mt. Apo.

The climate of the city is wholesome and agreeable. Outside the typhoon belt and protected by the island of Samal, its rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year.

Davao City was built by Don Jose Oyanguren, a deported Spanish adventurer in 1848. By virtue of a decree on February 27, 1848, Don Narciso Claveria, Governor General of the Archipelago, authorized him to recruit men and organize a punitive expedition against Datu Bago. With the help of the Bagobo tribe under Datu Namid, on July 26, 1848, Don Jose defeated Datu Bago at the mouth of the Davao River, presumably either at Agdao Street or the northern portion of Governor Carpenter Street in Davao City. It was the feast day of Sta. Ana after whom the present area of the city had been named.

With the suppression of Muslim piratical and marauding activities, Don Jose founded a settlement at the north end of what is now Bolton Street. Its first residents were his soldiers and their relatives.

This settlement was later wiped out by the inundation of the Davao River; so, they moved to a higher level where the present town is situated. He named the village Nueva Vergara or Vergara in honor of his native town in Spain.

The village with a handful of settlers grew into a lusty community of 1,500 inhabitants in 1894, 6,059 in 1903, 21,204 in 1918, 95,546 in 1939, 111,263 in 1948, 225,75 in 1960 and 390,796 (197,340 males and 193,456 females) in 1970.

Davao City was created by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 51, approved on October 16, 1936, by President Manuel L. Quezon. Composed of the former municipal district of Guianga and the Municipality of Davao, the city government was formally organized on March 1, 1937.

Within three decades it has undergone extensive changes in political structure. For the first time, by virtue of Republic Act No. 1368, dated June 18, 1955, the office of the mayor and the newly-created offices of the vice-mayor and the ten city councilors were made elective. Under Republic Act No. 4354, approved June 19, 1965, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Davao, its political system came close to the best concept of the republican system which gave accent to a representative form in the local government.

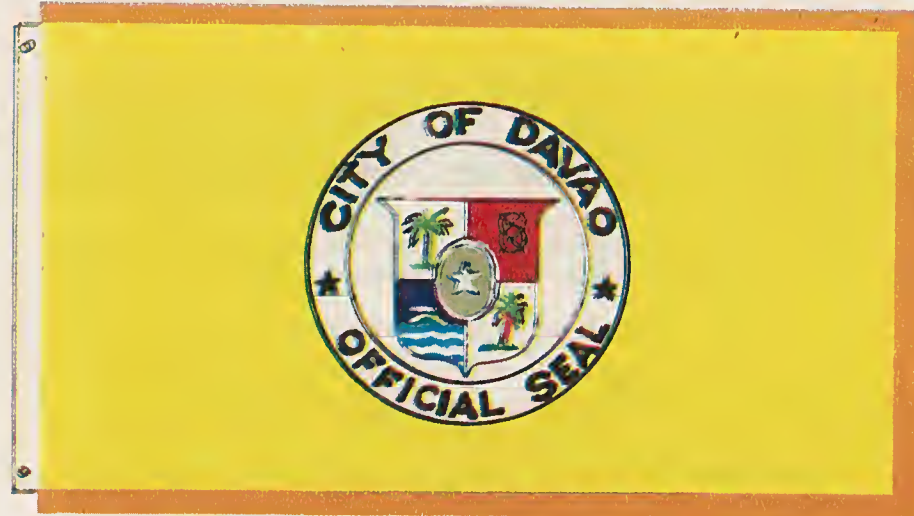
Davao City is a commercial center in southern Mindanao. Through its port, considered the main harbor along Davao Gulf and the adjacent provinces, foreign and local vessels load and unload the imports and exports of the region.

Thus Davao City combines the ideal of a tropical paradise with modern conveniences. Its progressive development is proven by the existence of 16 banking institutions, 18 hotels and 14 educational facilities. Some of the tourist attractions in the city are the 9,610 feet Mt. Apo occupying 6,900 hectares, Talomo Beach, Davao Penal Colony, two stock farms, the Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, and the Folk Arts Center, a repository of indigenous articles and folkways of the different ethnic groups of Mindanao.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF DAVAO

The City of Davao was created under C.A. 51 on October 16, 1936.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Davao

- Four Divisions* — represent the four (4) districts of the city; the star represents the union of these districts into a singular city.
- Colors* — blue, for purity of purpose; green, for growth; and red, for bravery and resoluteness.
- Upper Left and Lower Left Quadrants* — sea and ship depict the city as a trade and commercial center, while smokestacks represent industry.
- Shield* — Bagobo shield, representing the ethnic origin of the natives.
- Upper Right Quadrant* — symbols for abaca and coconut, principal produce.



WALING-WALING  
*City Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF COTABATO

COTABATO CITY is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Kuling, on the west by Illana Bay, on the south by the Municipality of Dinaig, and on the east by the Municipality of Tumbao.

The city has a land area of 176.0 square kilometers and a population of 14,579 in 1948, 37,499 in 1960, and 61,184 in 1970.

The climate is agreeable and the soil is fertile and productive.

The term "Mindanao" or "Maguindanao" was originally given to the town of Cotabato and the adjacent territory. The derivative "mindanao" which means "inundated" or "that which has been inundated" is derived from the word "danao," meaning "inundation of a river, lake or sea."

Cotabato, on the other hand, derived its name from a stone fort called "*kota wato*," which was erected by the Muslims on a hill towering above the town.

The city started centuries ago, at the time the *Manobos* or *Manubas* or *Man-subas* (river dwellers) lived in the former district of Cotabato.

In October 1526, a Spanish expedition led by Garcia Jofre de Loaisa reached Illana Bay and remained there for about ten days. The first attempt to conquer the Maguindanao Muslims occurred in 1596 when Rodriguez de Figueroa tried to occupy the village. The natives, however, repulsed the Spaniards and killed their commander. Years later, Pedro de Almonte penetrated into Cotabato and established a small *presidio* at Buhayan. Attempts to bring Cotabato under Spanish control were later abandoned.

From 1640 to the middle of the 19th century, the Maguindanao Muslims were independent people, recognizing no authority except the *datos* and *sultans*, and obeying no laws except their own.

In June 1851, Cotabato was again visited by the Spanish forces. They occupied Pollok, and converted it into a naval politico-military district.

With the exception of Parang, the only town inhabited by the Christians in 1913 was Cotabato. The religious ministration of the town was under the Recollects.

Upon the establishment of the civil government in 1914, the Christian Filipinos from Luzon and the Visayas migrated to Mindanao.

On April 29, 1942, before the Japanese forces invaded the town, the retreating Filipino soldiers burned the houses so as not to give shelter to the enemy. Cotabato became a ghost town. Consequently, Lt. Col. Salipada K. Pendatun, commander of the 117th Infantry Regiment at the Cotabato-Bukidnon area, led a relentless and highly spirited resistance movement against the Japanese. They later aided the liberation of Cotabato on April 17, 1945.

The Municipality of Cotabato, originally the capital of the old Cotabato Province, was made into a first class municipality by virtue of Executive Order No. 466 on July 1, 1950. Nine years later, on June 20, 1959, Cotabato was created into a chartered city by Republic Act No. 2364.

The city is the "melting pot" of diverse ethnic groups with varied cultures and occupations which resulted to its becoming a fast growing commercial and industrial center. The forest products, such as candlenut, *almaciga*, and *gutapercha*; and the agricultural products, like corn, rice, coconut, abaca, ramie, cotton, citrus and durian, which are raised by the neighboring towns are brought to the city for transport to other parts of the country.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF COTABATO

The City of Cotabato was created under R.A. 2364 on June 20, 1959.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cotabato

*Upper Left Quadrant* — the *Kuta*, from which the city's name was derived.

*Lower Left Quadrant* — the red-roofed City Hall showing its Mohammedan influence.

*Upper Right Quadrant* — two hills represent the Colina and Timako Hills, dominant fea-

tures of the city of Coatabato and blue winding strip represents the Rio Grande de Mindanao, symbolic of the city's future.

*Right Lower Quadrant* — coconut, rice and corn, main agricultural products of Cotabato City.



## HISTORY OF THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS :

THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS is surrounded by beautiful valleys, with Mount Matutum and Mount Magolo on the north, the coastline of the Sarangani Bay on the south, the Province of Davao on the east, the Municipality of Tupi on the northwest, and the Municipality of Kiamba on the southwest. It is the only gateway within the jurisdiction of the two rich Koronadal and Allah Valleys in Southern Cotabato.

The city has a land area of 795.5 square kilometers and a population of 9,787 in 1918, 14,115 in 1939, 32,019 in 1948, 84,988 in 1960, and 85,743 (43,503 males and 42,240 females) in 1970.

Its fertile soil is suitable for rice, corn, abaca, ramie, potatoes, and other agricultural crops, and its hills are ideal pasture areas of fine cattle.

The early natives along the shorelines of Sarangani established their fishing villages at the entrance of rivers—as centers of land travelers and seafarers.

About the fifteenth century, Shariff Kabungawan introduced Islam to the early settlers. The Tiboli tribesmen were driven to the interior and the highly cultured Muslims occupied the coastal areas.

In 1858, when Davao was made a separate district, the regions around the Sarangani Bay were controlled from the politico-military District of Glan, the largest and earlier Spanish settlements at Sumbang Point which faces the Celebes Sea. Later, in 1899, the Spaniards evacuated the Mindanao area and the administration of Buayan was left to the Muslims, Chinese and Indonesian residents.

In 1939, due to the congestion of the landless people in Luzon, the Commonwealth government conceived the opening of the valleys of Koronadal and Allah to them in line with the Social Justice Program of President Manuel L. Quezon. Thus, on February 27 of the same year, General Paulino Santos with

30 officials and 69 settlers (including women and children), aboard the "SS Basilan," arrived at Alunan Beach, in Glan.

The new settlers called the Christian community as "Dadiangas," after the thorny shrub which abound in the vicinity. Later, the village was renamed "Buayan" (the name of the early Muslim village) which referred to the crocodile-infested river near the site of the city. Buayan was also the name of the early Muslim ruler of Koronadal Valley. When Gen. Santos died, Republic Act No. 1107, approved June 15, 1954, changed the name of the town to General Santos, in honor of the founder of the city and the Land Settlement and Development Corporation (LASEDECO).

In 1947, President Manuel A. Roxas created General Santos into a regular municipality. The town, which became the seat of the provincial government, also included the newly created municipalities of Polomolok and Glan, its mother town.

From a fifth class municipality, it rose to a first class town after the separation of the annexed towns of Polomolok and Glan. In the province, it was the first municipality to enforce the minimum wage law for the working class in the local government and the private enterprises.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 5412, approved June 15, 1968, the Municipality of General Santos was created into a chartered city. The City of General Santos comprises the barrios of Alabel, Bula, Aleguia, Bacagay, Buluan, Buayan, Kawas, Labangal, Lagao, Conel, Dadiangas, Dumolok, Katangawan, Maluñgon, Maribulan, New Visayas, Mabuhay, Malandag, San Jose, Tamber, Tokawal, Pag-asa, San Isidro, Sinawal and Tinagacan.

Aside from private business and commercial and agricultural establishments, there are several branches of the National Government in the city. Some of these are from the Bureau of Lands, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Telecommunications, and Philippine National Bank.





*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS

The City of General Santos was created under R.A. 5412 on June 15, 1968.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of General Santos

*Mountain*

— represents Mt. Matutum, most prominent landmark of the city.

*Waves*

— represents Sarangani Bay which bounds the coast of the city.

*Coconut Trees and  
Banana Plants*

— signifies that coconut plantations surround the city and that it is the

*Pineapple Fruits*

first place in the country to be earmarked for banana plantation in commercial scale.

— signifies that General Santos City is the only outlet of a pineapple-producing firm in South Cotabato for pineapple products.

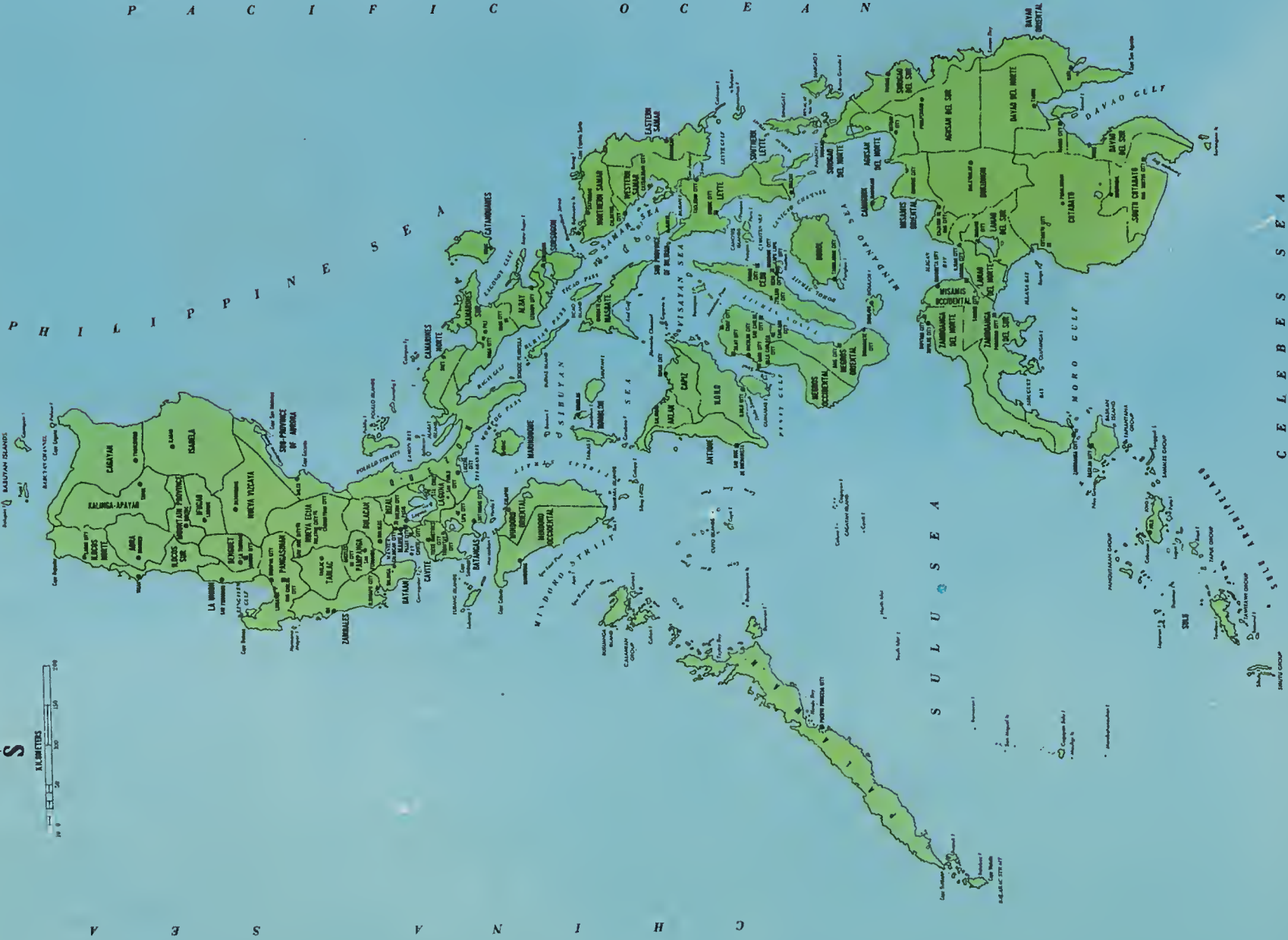


# MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES

BASIN CHANDEL

LUZON STRAIT

BALINTANG CHANNEL



C E L E B E S S E A

# THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*Seals of Provinces*  
*Republic of the Philippines*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ABRA

ABRA lies in the northwestern part of Luzon, between 120° 11' and 125° 41' east longitude and between 17° 38' and 18° 39' north latitude. It has a common boundary with Ilocos Norte in the north, Cagayan in the northwest, Ilocos Sur in the south and southwest, and Isabela, the Mountain Province, and the Central Cordillera Mountain in the east.

The province is composed of 27 municipalities with a total population of 263,358 in 1970. Its land area is approximately 3,809.89 square kilometers which are drained by the Abra River that flows northward from Mt. Data in the Mountain Province.

The summer trade winds and the northeast monsoon, two opposite air currents, affect the year-round favorable climate of Abra. Its important agricultural products are corn, tobacco, and rice, and the rich forest resources are timber, rattan, honey and wax. Gold dust is said to be found along Bolongan River in Lacub.

The first inhabitants, about 200 B.C., were the ancestors of the Bontocs and Ifugaos who moved later to the Mountain Province, and the Tinguians (called Tinguianes or "mountaineers," from *tingue* which means mountain), who resembled the Chichimecos, very savage and cruel headhunters of Nueva España (Mexico).

The first mission site in the province was established by the Augustinians.

During the British invasion, Maria Josefa Gabriela de Silang fled to Abra (then part of Ilocos province) and continued the revolutionary activities of her deceased husband, Diego. She was defeated and hanged by the enemy under Manuel Ignacio de Arza on September 20, 1763.

In 1846, Abra was created with Lepanto as a sub-province. By 1876, the province had already nine towns, some of which were Pidigan (1823), La Paz (1832), Bucay (1847), Dolores (1869), and Bangued, the most popular.

Don Blas Villamor established a provincial government in Abra in 1898. With the founding of the first Philippine Re-

public in January 1899, Juan de Castro and Enrique del Rosario were designated as delegates to the Assembly of Representatives in Malolos.

After the American military and civil governments took over, the Philippine Assembly on February 28, 1905, passed Act No. 1306 which annexed Abra to the province of Ilocos Sur, made appropriations for the payment of certain outstanding liabilities of Abra, and provided for the establishment of a civil government in the settlements of non-Christian tribes in the province of Ilocos Sur.

Again, on March 9, 1917, under Act No. 2683, the Philippine Assembly segregated the sub-province of Abra from the Province of Ilocos Sur and reestablished the former Province of Abra.

During the Japanese invasion, on January 8, 1942, the United States Army Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon (USAFIP, NL), composed of the elements of the 11th Infantry, 71st Infantry, and Troop C of the 26th Cavalry under Major Everett Warner, Captain Guillermo Nakar, and Captain Manuel P. Enriquez, respectively, was organized. After the fall of Bataan on April 9 of the same year, the Japanese forces from Abra threatened the rear of the 121st Infantry under Colonel John Horan. By the middle of 1942, the guerrilla force was reorganized into seven districts, with Abra and the Ilocos provinces as the Third District under Major Barnett. As a combat force it waged an unrelenting underground movement against the Japanese until they almost took possession of the mountain stronghold of General Tomoyuki Yamashita during the liberation of Northern Luzon.

Abra is known as the province of sturdy Ilocanos whose predominant dialects are Iloco, Tinguian or Itneg, Bontoc and Kalinga. Its former governors were Juan Villamor (the first civil governor), Eustaquio Purruganan, Julio Borbon, Virgilio Valera, Lucas Paredes, Carmelo Barbero and Petronilo Seares. Ignacio Villamor of Bangued, an educator, statesman, jurist and writer, was the first Filipino President of the University of the Philippines in 1915.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ABRA

The Province of Abra was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Abra



**GARDENIA**  
*Provincial Flower*

*Twin Peaks on  
both Sides of a  
River*

— from the Spanish word *abre* meaning gorge, pass, breach or opening, and it was first used by the Spaniards to denote the region above the Banawang Gap where Abra River exits into the China Sea, thus the *Rio Grande de Abra*. Later it was used to name the newly created province drained by its great basin.

*Paddied Fields*

— Signifies that the main occupation and means of livelihood of the people of Abra is farming.

*Prancing Stallion*

— means that Abra was once upon a time famous for its horses— noted for their strength, speed and endurance.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET

THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET, an elevated land mass of verdant valleys, lies at the southernmost portion of the old Mountain Province. It is bounded on the north by Ilocos Sur and Bontoc (now the Mountain Province), on the east by Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya, on the west by La Union and Ilocos Sur, and on the south by Pangasinan. The province has a land area of 2,655.4 square kilometers.

Benguet was one of the four provinces of the old Mountain Province. It was formerly a portion of the vast unexplored mountain fastness inhabited by five distinct cultural minority groups with diverse dialects, customs and traditions. The province comprises the subprovince of Benguet, and the municipalities of Tuba, Sablan, Itogon, Tablay, Buguias, and the capital town of La Trinidad. In 1970, Benguet had a population of 263,550, the majority of whom belongs to the minority groups.

During the Spanish colonial era, in January 1829, Guillermo Galvey led an expedition to the District of Benguet. In 1836, Governor General Salazar also sent an expedition to this "Igorot Country." The province was created into a *comandancia* during the Spanish rule.

On June 1, 1903, the Philippine Commission created a committee to take charge of the improvement in Benguet, construction of the Benguet Road, erection of buildings, and construction of a wagon road from Naguilian.

On August 18, 1908, Benguet became one of the sub-provinces of the Mountain Province by virtue of Act No. 1876, which was passed by the Philippine Legislature. The others were Bontoc, Ifugao, Kalinga, Ambuarayan and Lepanto. On February 4, 1920, the boundary of Benguet was altered because

of the abolition of the subprovinces of Ambuarayan and Lepanto.

During World War II, the USAFFE guerrillas of Northern Luzon withdrew to the mountain fastness, particularly in Benguet, where they later contacted the General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area (GHQ-SWPA) by radio, and transmitted information to General Douglas MacArthur in Australia.

During the reorganization of the guerrilla units in Northern Luzon, the 66th Infantry under Major Parker Calvert was officially activated in Benguet on October 8, 1943. The famous guerrilla leaders were Dennis Molintas and Bado Dangwa of Itogon.

In July 1966, Republic Act No. 4695 divided the Mountain Province into four provinces, one of which was Benguet.

The province has the highest percentage of literacy among the newly created provinces. Although Baguio City is its center of learning, there are several agricultural schools in its municipalities.

There are more mineral resources in Benguet than in any of the three newly created provinces. Several mining companies operate in the province; the important ones are the Benguet Consolidated, Incorporated, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company, Philex Mining Corporation, Benguet Exploration, Incorporated, Itogon-Suyoc Mines, and the Atok-Big Wedge.

Benguet Province is no longer the abode of non-Christian tree dwellers, such as the inland tribal groups of Ibalays and the Kankanoys, etc. They have been assimilated as a part of the Filipino nation.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BENGUET

The Province of Benguet was created under Republic Act 4695 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Benguet

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Dam and Reservoir</i>         | — represent Ambuklao and Binga Hydro-electric plant.   |
| <i>Miner's Tools</i>             | — stand for the rich mineral resources and the mining industry of the province.  |
| <i>Native Basket or Kayabong</i> | — represents the basket-weaving and home industries of Benguet as well as its multi-million peso vegetable industry.                     |
| <i>Pine Trees</i>                | — the forests of Benguet and its terrace-clad mountains, foremost tourist attractions of the province.                                   |
| <i>Gong or Gansa</i>             | — it symbolizes the highland culture of the natives; also the optimistic outlook of the people, their oneness and viability to progress. |



**EVERLASTING**  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE

THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE is situated in the northwestern portion of Luzon. It is bounded on the east by Kalinga-Apayao, on the south and southwest by Abra and Ilocos Sur, and on the north and west by the China Sea.

The population of the province was 343,427 in 1970. It has a land area of 3,399.3 square kilometers.

In May 1572, Juan de Salcedo occupied Vigan. Subsequently, he entered Laoag and sent an expedition to a town called Bacal (probably the town of Batac). Salcedo subjugated some of the "*purocs*" when he explored the Ilocos region. He returned to Manila, along the eastern coastline of Luzon, in the later part of 1572.

Early in 1574, Salcedo again visited Ilocos where he had been given an *encomienda* by Governor General Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. When Limahong attempted to invade Manila, he returned to the city and helped in repelling the Chinese pirates. Later, he proceeded to Pangasinan and returned to his *encomienda*.

On February 2, 1818, a Royal Decree was promulgated dividing the province of Ilocos into Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. Laoag was made the capital of Ilocos Norte.

Ilocos Norte was the scene of many important revolts. The first, caused by the collection of tributes, occurred in Dingras in 1589. The next, in 1661, was led by Pedro Almazan who proclaimed himself "King," and his eldest son "Crown Prince". In 1782, a general discontent over the tobacco monopoly caused an uprising in Laoag. Later, in 1807, the injustices of the wine monopoly caused the revolt led by Pedro Mateo.

When the Filipinos revolted against Spain in 1896, Gregorio Aglipay was among the first to join the ranks of the revolutionists. The Revolutionary Army under General Manuel Tinio occupied Ilocos Norte and the other Ilocano provinces.

During World War II, the first guerrilla activities against the Japanese invaders took place in Ilocos Norte, Abra and

Ilocos Sur. One of the guerrilla units that gained the attention of the General Headquarters (GHQ) and the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) was the *Ang Mga Maharlika* (The Noble Ones), organized and commanded by Lt. Col. Ferdinand E. Marcos, which operated in northern Luzon and in the provinces of Pangasinan and Zambales, and the City of Manila.

After the organization of the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon (USAFIP, NL), the *Maharlika* was dissolved. Lt. Col. Marcos and the other officers from northern Luzon joined the USAFIP, NL.

Another resistance organization, the Ablan-Madamba guerrilla unit of northern Luzon (organized in January 1942), had a series of fights with the Japanese Imperial Forces. When Colonel Watanabe established the Japanese headquarters in Laoag, the enemy hunted Roque B. Ablan, and even air-dropped leaflets urging his surrender. He, however, twice escaped the enemy trap. On November 8, 1942, Ablan successfully attacked the Japanese patrols in Pampanili, Solsona. A month after, on December 10, he left for Cagayan to confer with General Marcelo Adduru.

Ilocos Norte is the home of many national and local figures, some of them were: Ferdinand E. Marcos, incumbent president of the Republic of the Philippines; Manuel Luna, Filipino "Virtuoso"; Juan Luna, famous painter of the "Spoliarium"; Gregorio Aglipay, founder and first bishop of the Philippine Independent Church; Josefa Llanes Escoda, social worker; Roque Ablan, guerrilla fighter; Pedro Bukaneg, Father of Iloko Literature; and Fidel Segundo, successful general.

The province has many historical markers, monuments and landmarks, namely: the birthplaces of Gregorio Aglipay in Batac, Juan Luna in Badoc, and Valentin Diaz in Paoay; the churches of Laoag, Paoay, and San Nicolas; the markers of Roque Ablan and the abolition of the tobacco monopoly, both in Laoag; the monuments of the brave Sarrateños and the Plaza Pasuquin; St. William Cathedral, and the Bojeador lighthouse.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE

The Province of Ilocos Norte was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Ilocos Norte

#### *Central Portion*

— the ancient tower of Laoag City, begun in 1580 and considered the most solid and tallest belfry of the Philippines; also the symbol of Christian civilization in the North.

#### *Figure Below*

— the intrepid Ilocano farmer with his working tools and companion.

#### *Year 1818*

— the year of separation of the northern portion of the old Ilocos and creation into a province by a Royal Decree.

#### *Left Portion*

— stalks of rice, symbol of abundance in rice production, the stabilizing factor of the economy of the Ilocanos.

#### *Right Portion*

— symbol of the tobacco industry in Northern Luzon to which the country owed its historical economic emancipation from the Mexican Government.



KAKAWATE  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR

ILOCOS SUR occupies the northwestern portion of Luzon. It is bounded in the north by Ilocos Norte and Abra, in the south by La Union, in the east by Benguet and the Mountain Province, and in the west by the China Sea.

It has a land area of 2,579.6 square kilometers and a population of 385,139 in 1970. Its important crops are tobacco (Virginia type), rice, corn, sugar cane, onions, *camote*, cassava, and vegetables.

Juan de Salcedo led the first expedition to the region. After his exploration in 1572, he founded *Villa Fernandina* or *Ciudad Fernandina* (now Vigan), in honor of King Ferdinand VI of Spain, and the Ilocos province which embraced the present Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union, and parts of the Mountain Province. As a reward, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, first Governor General of the Philippines, named him *encomendero* of Vigan and Lieutenant General of the Ilocos Province. Vigan, second in age to Manila, became the capital of the province. The other towns before the end of the 16th century were Santa Maria, Narvacan, Bantay, Candon and Sinait.

In 1574, the Chinese pirate Limahong plundered Sinait while on his way to Manila.

The Ilocanos were among the first Filipinos to oppose foreign rule and domination, two of their resistances were the Malong Rebellion of 1660 and the Silang Revolt of 1762 to 1763. Malong tried to establish a kingdom in Pangasinan and the neighboring provinces, as far as Vigan, while Diego Silang practically succeeded at the heights of his revolt in establishing an independent government in Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan and Cagayan.

In 1611, when Pangasinan was created, a part of La Union (then Ilocos) was annexed to the new province. Later, on February 2, 1818, a Royal Decree divided the Ilocos province into Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. The South (Sur) included the northern part of La Union and Abra and the sub-provinces of Lepanto and Amburayan which were portions of the Mountain Province. In 1846, Abra was created as a province with Lepanto as its sub-province, and in 1854, La Union was created out of the towns belonging to Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan. On February 28, 1905, through the passage of Act No. 1306, Abra was again annexed to Ilocos Sur until March 9, 1917 when Act No. 2683


separated Abra from Ilocos Sur.

During the Philippine-American War, President Emilio Aguinaldo and the remnants of the Filipino forces retreated to Ilocos Sur, where his youngest general, Gregorio del Pilar, commander of the rear-guard forces, gallantly fought the American forces led by Major Peyton C. March at the Battle of Tirad Pass, in the municipal districts of Gregorio del Pilar and Sigay, and municipalities of Quirino, Cervantes and Suyo.

On December 10, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Forces landed in Ilocos Sur. Six days later, they invaded Santa, Vigan and the neighboring towns and destroyed the churches and rectories of Bantay, Lapog, Santiago, Cervantes, and the *Presidencias* of Narvacan and Candon.

A year after, on January 8, the guerrilla force composed of the elements of the 11th Infantry, 71st Infantry, and Troop C of the 26th Cavalry was organized into the United States Army Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon (USAFIP, NL). By June, it was reorganized into seven districts, with the Ilocos provinces and Abra belonging to the Third District. During the liberation, on January 8, 1945, the USAFIP, NL led the assault on the Japanese line at Bitalag, Tagudin, and the seizures of enemy strongholds along Highway 4. The same year, in June, the USAFIP, NL, spearheaded by the 121st Infantry, defeated the enemy at Bessang Pass in Cervantes which event hastened the surrender of General Tomoyuki Yamashita.

Ilocos Sur is the home of many national and local heroes, some of whom were: Gabriela Silang, wife of Diego of the Ilocos Revolt and the first Filipino woman rebel leader; Father Jose Burgos, one of the three martyred priests in Bagumbayan (Luneta) in 1872, on account of the Cavite Mutiny; Isabelo de los Reyes, nationalist, co-founder of the Philippine Independent Church, and father of unionism; Cosme Abaya, military chaplain of the revolution; Isabelo Abaya, hero of the revolution; Ventura de los Reyes, a signatory of the Cadiz Constitution of 1812; Benito Soliven, assemblyman of the first National Assembly (1935); Pedro Bukaneg, father of Ilocano literature; Ignacio Villamor, Justice of the Supreme Court and first Filipino President of the University of the Philippines; and Elpidio Quirino, Vice-President and later President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the death of President Manuel Roxas.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**PURPLE BOUGAINVILLEA**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR

The Province of Ilocos Sur was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Ilocos Sur

- Maroon Background* — stands for courage, self-sacrifice, loyalty, perseverance and dedication for work which are the outstanding virtues of its people.
- Chrome-yellow Circle* — represents the province's long dry season, conducive to numerous cottage industries which constitute the main livelihood of the Ilocanos.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION

THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION is bounded on the north by Ilocos Sur, on the east by Benguet, on the south by Pangasinan, and on the west by the China Sea.

It has a land area of 1,493.1 square kilometers. It had a population of 373,682 in 1970.

La Union is one of the noted tobacco-producing provinces of the country. Rice and corn are also cultivated. Fishing is an important economic activity.

The province is a rich source of limestone for the manufacture of cement, particularly in Bacnotan.

During his exploration of the north, Captain Juan de Salcedo reached a place called Atuley (presumed to be La Union). In Purao, the present town of Balaoan, Salcedo met strong resistance from the natives.

The Augustinian missionaries arrived in La Union in the late decades of the 16th century. Among the first towns they founded were Balaoan (1587), Bauang (1590) and Agoo (1598).

In the 17th century, La Union was conquered by Pedro Gumapos of Agoo. He was sent by Andres Malong, the leader of the Pangasinan Revolt, to subdue the Spaniards in the province. Gumapos, with his Zambal allies, was defeated by the forces of Generals Francisco de Esteybar and Felipe de Ugalde in a decisive battle between the towns of Sta. Lucia and Sta. Catalina in 1661.

The province was created out of the towns of Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan (San Juan, San Fernando, Bauang, Naguilian, Aringay, Agoo and Sto. Tomas) by Governor General Antonio

Maria Blanco on March 2, 1850.

During the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, La Union was controlled by the revolutionists. In May 1898, General Manuel Tinio occupied San Fernando. For sometime, the provincial government was under Governor Luciano Almeda.

After the battle in Aringay River on November 19, 1899, the American troops under the command of General S. B. M. Young occupied the province. Together with the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Lepanto and Bontoc, La Union was administered by the First Military District under General Young.

The civil government was established in La Union on August 15, 1901. A year later, La Union ceded a narrow strip of land to Amburayan, a subprovince of Mountain Province.

During the Second World War, the USAFFE units in La Union fought the Japanese invaders in San Fernando, Bauang and Damortis.

On January 21, 1945, the American Liberation Forces, together with the 121st Infantry, Northern Luzon, fought the Japanese at Poro Point, Baroro River, and the Bacsil Ridge on the northern side of San Fernando. The liberating forces were supplied with arms and ammunitions by a submarine in Darigayos. San Fernando was liberated from the Japanese on March 24, 1945.

A place famous for vacation resorts, La Union is well-known for its sandy beaches. The famous vacation spots at Poro Point, Nalinac, Mar-Fil and Long Beaches attract local as well as foreign visitors.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF LA UNION

The Province of La Union was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of La Union



POINSETTIA  
*Provincial Flower*

<i>Mountains</i>	— symoblize mountainous La Union.
<i>Two Shaking Hands</i>	— Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur, each of which contributed a siezable portion of their territories to give birth to the province of La Union.
<i>Sailboat</i>	— means abundance in fish of the province.
<i>Steamship</i>	— San Fernando port of entry, the biggest port north of Manila.
<i>Building</i>	— the provincial capitol.
<i>Spinning Wheel</i>	— weaving industry in which its people are actively engaged.
<i>Plow</i>	— denotes the fertile land of the province
<i>Tobacco Plant</i>	— other main industry of La Union.



## HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

At the southern part of the old Mountain Province, between Ilocos Sur and Isabela Provinces, lies the present Mountain Province. It is bounded on the north by Kalinga-Apayao, on the east by Isabela, on the south by Ifugao, and on the west by Ilocos Sur.

The province has more mountains than all the provinces of the Philippines have. During the Spanish regime, it was called "*La Montañosa*," meaning "The Mountainous."

Mountain Province has a land area of 2,097.3 square kilometers. It had a population of 93,112 in 1970.

The natives persistently resisted Spanish colonization efforts and practically remained uninfluenced by Christianity, and until recently by European, American and Asian dominations. They were shut off from the lowlands by rugged peaks; thus, preserving their primitive way of life up to this day.

During the Spanish rule, sporadic expeditions were sent against its inhabitants as early as 1663; but not much was done to change their old ways. They preferred the primitive mode of existence than Spanish subjugation. These tribal groups belong to the non-Christian tribes of Indonesian origin.

Because of its high elevation, the province has a cool climate. The major crops are rice, potato and vegetables. *Camote*

or sweet potato is used as a secondary staple food among the Igorots, and it ranks second to their rice production.

When the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896, the non-Christian tribes destroyed the Spanish outposts and massacred the people in the Spanish garrisons. The revolutionary forces which moved into the mountain areas of the province were given complete support by its inhabitants.

In 1900, the American forces destroyed the revolutionary forces. They later established a civil government in the province. In 1901, the missionaries from the Roman Catholic, American Episcopalian (Protestant) and United Brethren (Protestant) denominations entered Mountain Province and initiated Christian evangelization work in these highlands.

Under Act No. 1876, passed by the Philippine Legislature on August 18, 1908, Mountain Province was made into a separate province headed by a lieutenant-governor.

With the passage of Republic Act No. 4695, approved on March 11, 1966, the old Mountain Province was divided into the provinces Mountain Province (name retained), Benguet, Kalinga-Apayao and Ifugao. The municipalities of the new Mountain Province are Barlig, Besao, Bontoc (capital), Natonin, Paracelis, Sabangan, Sadanga, Sagada and Sadian.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Mountain Province was created under R.A. 4695 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Mountain Province

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Pure-white Lilies</i>     | — believed to have been planted by the gods to beautify more the verdant hills and mountains. |
| <i>Five White Stars</i>      | — the defunct sub-provinces of Bontoc, Ifugao, Benguet, Apayao and Kalinga.                   |
| <i>Mountain Peaks</i>        | — also represent the sub-provinces and their attractions.                                     |
| <i>Mountains</i>             | — refuge in defense of freedom.   |
| <i>Two Small Houses</i>      | — banks and industrial buildings housing minerals in all forms.                               |
| <i>Spear and Head Ax</i>     | — once the principal weapons of war.  |
| <i>String of Agate beads</i> | — the headgear of native women.   |
| <i>Rope</i>                  | — unity among its ten municipalities.   |



LILY  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN

THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, situated at the western coast of Luzon, is bounded on the north by the Lingayen Gulf, La Union and Benguet; on the east and northeast by Nueva Vizcaya; on the southeast by Nueva Ecija and on the south by Tarlac and Zambales. At its western portion is the China Sea.

Pangasinan has a land area of 5,368.2 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 1,386,143.

The word "Pangasinan," which means "the place where salt is made," is derived from the root word *asin*, meaning "salt." It is one of the important occupations (salt making) of the inhabitants along the coastal areas of the province.

When the famous Chinese pirate, Limahong, attempted to establish a settlement on the shores of Lingayen, he was repulsed by the forces of Juan de Salcedo on March 23, 1575.

A decade after the arrival of the Spaniards in the province, Pangasinan was apportioned to six *encomenderos*. The *Laws of the Indies* in 1580 provided for the organization of Pangasinan into an *alcaldia mayor*. Later, in 1611, Pangasinan was created into a province.

Due to discontentment against Spanish colonial rule, several abortive revolts occurred in the province. The noted ones were those led by Juan Cagragray, Andres Malong and Juan de la Cruz Palaris.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Daniel Maramba, one of the earliest *Katipuneros* of the province, recruited members of the *Katipunan* from the towns of Urdaneta, Sta. Barbara, Malasiqui, Calasiao and Mangaldan. The revolutionary forces repulsed a counter-revolutionary movement of the *Guardia de Honor* in the barrios of Cabaruan in Urdaneta, and in Sta. Ana, Tayug. The *Guardia* was a religious organization instituted by the friars at the start of the Revolution.

The first Philippine Republic set up by General Emilio Aguinaldo at Malolos, Bulacan, was transferred to Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and finally in Bayambang, Pangasinan, after the outbreak of the Filipino-American War in 1899. In Bayambang, Aguinaldo disbanded his army and organized guerrilla units to escape the pursuing American forces.

The Americans occupied Pangasinan in November 1899. The first appointed Filipino governor of the province was Perfecto Sison. In 1908, Antonio Sison became the first elected governor.

During the Second World War, the Japanese forces landed in Pangasinan at Lingayen Gulf on December 21, 1941. After the attack of Aparri, Laoag, and Vigan, the Japanese completely controlled Northern Luzon. Later, the American Liberation Forces unexpectedly attacked Lingayen on January 9, 1945, and simultaneously landed at San Fabian.

Claimed to be the "rice granary of the Philippines," the province has embarked on an agricultural development program geared towards increased rice production. Since 1972, communal irrigation dams have been constructed. Several agencies like the National Irrigation Administration, the Presidential Assistance on Community Development, and the Local Irrigation Service unit assist the provincial government in carrying out the program.

Urduja Country (after the legendary heroine), as Pangasinan is popularly referred to, is noted for the Hundred Islands of Lucap, Alaminos; the Umbrella Rocks of Sabañgan Norte in Agno; the Blue Beach in Bonuan, Dagupan City; the White Beach of San Fabian; and the historic beach of Lingayen. Hot springs are also found in Pugaro, Balungao and in Manleluwag, Mangatarem.

Pangasinan is also famous for its Shrine of the Lady of Manaoag, and the *Pista'y Dayat*, a fluvial parade that starts from the Hundred Islands to San Fabian.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN

The Province of Pangasinan was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Pangasinan

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Building</i>                          | — the provincial capitol in Lingayen, built in 1918 and reconstructed after the war.  |
| <i>Sailboats and Blue Background</i>     | — the calm and beautiful Lingayen Gulf, haven of today's fishermen and the seafarers of the old days such as the Chinese trader Limahong. |
| <i>Milkfish, Bricks and Salt-cooking</i> | — main sources of livelihood of its people.   |
| <i>Motif of Coat of Arms</i>             | — patterned after the native shield, suggestive of the reign of the legendary Princess Urduja.  |



**YELLOW SANTAN**  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BATANES

THE ISLANDS in the Batanes group, like stepping stones off the northern coasts of Luzon, consist of the inhabited islands of Batan, Itbayat, Ibahos, Duquey, Siayan, Mabudis, Diogo, Sabtang, North and Y'Ami, and seven or more small volcanic islets.

Batanes, with a rugged coastline, has a land area of 209.3 square kilometers.

The island, with the seat of the provincial government in the Municipality of Santo Domingo de Basco, is the smallest among the 67 provinces of the country. It is separated from Formosa by the Bashi Channel and from the Babuyan Islands by the Balintang Channel. The Balintang Islands, in the center of the Balintang Channel, form the connecting link between the Babuyanes and Batanes.

The original inhabitants of Batanes were from the Malay stock, the *Itavans*—short, squat people. Their small houses of wood, bamboo and cogon were located in small villages on the slopes and top of rocky hills. Each cluster of houses was under a *Mangpus*. In 1970, the island had a population of 11,398.

The Dominicans started the evangelization of the natives in the Batanes Islands. In 1680, Father Mateo Gonzales was appointed Vicar of Babuyanes until 1686, when he was assigned to Cagayan.

The difficulty of transportation between the different islands caused major drawbacks in the missionary activity. However, on June 16, 1783, King Charles III ordered Governor General Don Jose Basco y Vargas to give the people of Batanes every chance to receive the Catholic faith, without counting the cost of the undertaking.

On September 16, 1898, the Filipino revolutionists arrived in Batanes and killed its governor, Julian Fortea. Teofilo Castillejos was installed as chief of the province and the local heads were appointed in each of the municipalities in lieu of the *gobernadorcilla* or *capitan*.

When the American forces established a military government, after the Philippine-American War, Batanes was classified as a municipality of Cagayan. Luciano Barsana was given the title of president of the province.

During the term of Governor General James Smith, Batanes was made a subprovince of Cagayan with a deputy governor in 1908. Under the administration of Deputy Governor Otto Von Scheerer, the projects on the urbanization of municipalities were initiated, and roads and port facilities were constructed. In Batan Island, all the towns were linked by telephone and, in Itbayat, a line connected the port to the town. A wireless communication tower was also built near Basco.

With the establishment of a civil government, the first elections were held to choose their respective town presidents. Batanes became an independent province in 1909.

During the Pacific War from 1941 to 1945, the Japanese forces landed in Batan Island at dawn of December 8, 1941. The invading forces consisting of two transports, one destroyer, four torpedo boats, and several other large vessels left Takao and Hozan, Formosa, on the evening of December 7. The enemy seized an airfield in Basco with the plan of transforming it into a base for air attacks in Northern Luzon. The Japanese Imperial Army also gained complete control of the airfields in Laoag, Vigan and Aparri in Northern Luzon. Four years later, when the American Liberation Forces arrived, the Japanese forces surrendered in Batanes on September 8, 1945.

Today, although Basco was left in ruins after the war, it has well-paved streets chiseled out of high cliffs, and modern and massive government buildings.

Batanes is no longer synonymous with people in native raincoats made from strips of banana stalks. They have learned to live out of the hardships on an island province far from the centers of population, production, commerce and trade.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BATANES

The Province of Batanes was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Batanes

*Cow*

— a major product of the province and principal source of income for the ordinary farmer.

*Root Crops*

— above the cow, from left to right, rootstocks of gabi, camote and ubi; to the left of the jar, garlic or onion; and to the right, tugui—all of which constitute the major agricultural crops of the province.

*Earthen Jar*

— a versatile household item.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN

CAGAYAN, situated at the northern tip of Luzon, is bounded in the north by the Babuyan Channel, east by the Pacific Ocean, south by the Provinces of Kalinga and Isabela, and west by the Province of Apayao.

It has a land area of 909,594 hectares which is divided into the tobacco and delta regions. Two mountain ranges, Mt. Cetaceo (the highest, 1,833 meters) and Mt. Tapha (the lowest, 439 meters) yield good hardwoods.

Cagayan had a population of 532,000 in 1970. The province consists of 29 municipalities, with the capital at Tuguegarao.

Before the Spaniards came, the Ibanags (derived from the native word *bannag*, meaning "river") had already settled along the river banks. They had their own culture and were trading with the Chinese, Malays, Japanese, and other neighboring peoples.

In 1572, Juan de Salcedo explored Cagayan Valley, via the Cagayan River, and visited Aparri, Abulug and Pamplona. *Tagay* trees (tall hardwood) then abounded along the river banks; hence, they called the region "Catagayan" which was later shortened to "Cagayan."

The Japanese pirates led by Tayfusa or Taizufa settled along the coast of the province and terrorized the natives in 1581. On orders of Governor Gonzalo Ronquillo de Peñalosa, they were driven away by Captain Pablo Carreon, Dominican Cristobal de Salvatierra and Augustinian Francisco Rodriguez. Capt. Carreon founded the City of Nueva Segovia (now Lal-lo) and built a port. Another expedition, among others, led by Luis Perez Dasmariñas, explored Tuy.

By 1583, Cagayan, comprising the territories east of the Cordillera central mountains and north of the Caraballo del Sur, was already recognized as a political division, with Nueva Segovia as its capital.

In 1594, Augustinians Diego de Soria and Tomas Castellar undertook the missionary work in the region. The Dominicans, however took over the vast mission field on June 13, 1595. Two months later, on August 14, Pope Clement VIII created the Diocese of Nueva Segovia with the City of Nueva Segovia as its seat and Father Miguel de Benavides as the first bishop.

The seat of the Diocese was later transferred to Vigan in 1755.

A series of revolts rocked the province. In 1589, Santiago de Vera pacified the natives who opposed the collection of tributes and killed many Spaniards. In 1596, the people of Cagayan led by Magalat and his brother, and later helped by the Tuguegarao chieftains, were crushed by Captain Pedro de Chaves. In November 1621, the Gaddang tribes led by Felipe Cutabay and Gabriel Dayag were convinced by Dominican Pedro de Santo Tomas to lay down their arms. Again, in 1625 (led by Miguel Lanab and Alababan), then in 1627, and finally in March 1639, the people of Cagayan again revolted but were subdued. In 1718, the natives of Malaoeg and Tuao under Magtangaga and Tomas Sinaguingan were suppressed by Captain Juan Pablo de Orduña.

Led by Dabo and Marayac, the people of Ilagan, inspired by the British invasion of 1762 and the revolutionary propaganda of Silang and Palaris, also revolted and proclaimed their independence on February 2, 1763. This uprising spread to Cabagan and Tuguegarao where Manuel de Arza finally quelled them.

Nueva Vizcaya was created into a separate politico-military province in 1839. Later, Isabela was also separated from Cagayan in 1856. By order of General Weyler, Kalinga became "*Partido de Itaves*" with the seat of government in Cagayan in 1889. Apayao, north of the "*Partido*," was organized into a *comandancia* the next year.

During the Philippine revolution, Colonel Daniel Tirona, aboard the *Filipinas*, proceeded to Aparri where on August 25, 1898, Lieutenant Mariano Perez de Guzman of the Spanish marine and infantry forces and Lieutenant Salvador Piera of the civil guards surrendered to him. Successively, the other towns were occupied by the revolutionary forces. Tuguegarao was surrendered on the 30th and occupied by Mayor Jose M. Leyba the next day.

When the Americans came during the Philippine-American War, Captain Joseph B. Batchelor entered Tuguegarao on December 12, 1899. Later, Colonel Hood was appointed military governor of Cagayan until August 22, 1901, when Commissioner William Taft visited Tuguegarao and established a civil government in the province.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



ROSAL  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN

The Province of Cagayan was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cagayan

*Yellow (or Gold) Color* — symbolizes the wealth of the province.

*Blue Color* — stands for justice, honor, nobility of the people, their sincerity and traditional peaceful ways.

*Blue Portion* — depicts Cagayan River serving as dividing line between the two congressional district.

*Small Islands* — represent the small islands on the northern part of the province.

*Plant Facsimiles* — represent the main agricultural crops such as tobacco, rice, corn and peanuts, the major sources of income of the people.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO

THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, on the central Cordillera Mountains of northern Luzon, is bounded on the north by the Mountain Province, on the south by Nueva Vizcaya, on the east by Isabela, and on the west by Benguet.

Ifugao has a land area of 2,517 square kilometers. In 1970 it had a population of 92,487. The Ifugao dialect is spoken by about 88.0% of the population, the Ilocano language by about 9.1%, and the other dialects by 2.9%.

The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, hunting, and forestry. Woodcarving, the famous native woodcraft particularly in Hapao, is an important home industry.

Topographically, Ifugao has rugged terrain and peaks, except on the western portion called the Valley of the Magat River which is one of the most fertile places in the Philippines, and a part of the best tobacco-producing region in the north.

Rice, its chief agricultural product, is grown on the terraces. The other crops are potato, taro, cotton, and vegetables (pea, bean, and onion).

During the first half of the 19th century, the Spanish explorer, Guillermo Galvey, led about 45 expeditions to the mountain region. He visited Trinidad, Lutab, Kalayan (Benguet), Kiangnan and Mayoyao (Ifugao), Kayan (Lepanto), and Suyoc (Amburayan).

At the end of the Spanish rule, the region of the old Mountain Province was divided into several politico-military *comandancia*, one of which was the *comandancia* of Kiangnan, now Ifugao.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the mountain country was practically unaffected by the war. However, during the Filipino-American War, the Filipino soldiers who retreated to central and northern Luzon penetrated the district of the Mountain Province. General Emilio Aguinaldo retreated to Benguet, Bontoc, Ifugao and Kalinga on his way to Palanan, Isabela.

Originally, the Subprovince of Ifugao was a part of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya when the latter was created in 1839. On August 18, 1908, by virtue of Act No. 1876 of the Philippine Commission, the Mountain Province was created as a separate province and divided into subprovinces each headed by a lieutenant-governor. Ifugao was later separated from Nueva Vizcaya and made a subprovince of Mountain Province.

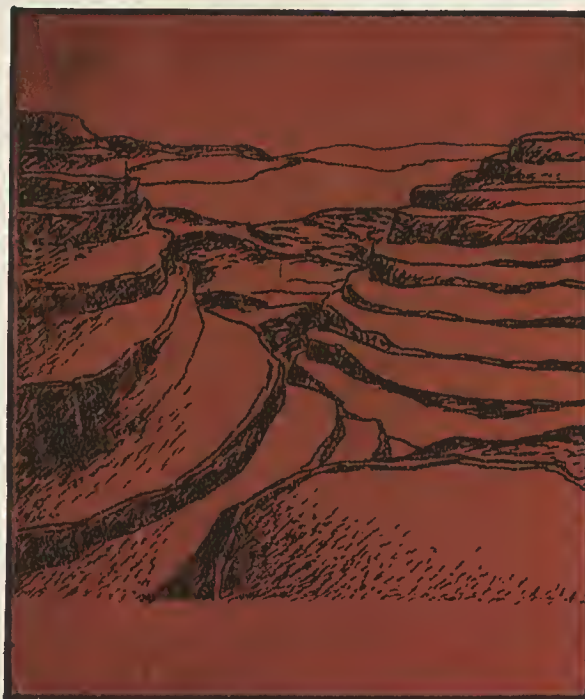
During the American occupation, Colonel William John C. Early became the Deputy Military Governor of Ifugao in 1927. Col. William E. Dosser was the last designated American Deputy Military Governor of the subprovince.

General Tomoyuki Yamashita, known as the "Tiger of Malaya," who commanded the 14th Area of the Japanese Imperial Army in the Philippines, established the "Yamashita Pocket" with headquarters in Kiangnan, Ifugao and the Bontoc area.

In Kiangnan, Yamashita finally surrendered to the joint Filipino-American Forces in 1945, signifying the final liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese forces.

Ifugao Subprovince was created into a regular province on June 18, 1966, by virtue of Republic Act No. 4695. Under this law the old Mountain Province was divided into four regular provinces—Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao and the Mountain Province. The municipalities of the province are Banawe, Hungduan, Kiangnan, Lamut, Mayoyao (Mayoyao), Potia, and Lagawe, which is the provincial capital.

The Banawe rice terraces of Ifugao, considered as one of the eight wonder of the world, is the main tourist attraction of the provinces. These terraces, like gigantic stairways, are thousands of feet up to the mountain sides, and 12,000 miles (or half-way around the world) if placed end to end. They are irrigated by an elaborate system of canals and giant ditches extending miles in length. Unlike the pyramids of Egypt, the terraces were built by free men to support free life.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF IFUGAO

The Province of Ifugao was created under R.A. 4695 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Ifugao

- |                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Blue Background</i> | — the blue skies which seem to join the famous rice terraces of the city when viewed from afar. | considered the eighth wonder of the world.   |
| <i>Shield</i>          | — traditional weapon of the natives for self-defense.   | <i>Divan or hagabe</i> — status symbol of the natives. The carving of this furniture is even ritualistic—from the search and cutting of the narra tree to the delivery of the finished product to the owner. |
| <i>Greenfields</i>     | — the famous rice terraces, so much like stairways to the skies, and                            |  |



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

ISABELA, considered as the second biggest province in Luzon, is bounded by the provinces of Cagayan on the north, Nueva Vizcaya and Quezon on the south, the Pacific Ocean on the east and the Mountain Province on the west.

The province has a land area of 10,644.56 square kilometers. It had 48,302 inhabitants in 1887, and 638,123 in 1970.

With the construction of an irrigation system and the introduction of scientific farming methods, Isabela is now another rice granary of the Philippines and a premiere quality tobacco-growing province. It is also a veritable basin of oil and ore deposits, and a source of lumber and other forest products.

Isabela originally consisted of the area known as Irraya (from Cabagan to Ilagan), Diffun (from Gamu to Cauayan), and Paniqui (from Cauayan to Nueva Vizcaya). Fr. Francisco de Sto. Tomas, a Dominican, started evangelizing Irraya. He was succeeded by Fr. Pedro Jimenez.

The Dominicans founded Maquila (later called Cabagan Viejo), Nalavangan and Pilitan (1598), Talama (1604), Bataoag (now Gamu) (1612), Abuatan (now Bangac, barrio of Ilagan) and Bolo (now Ilagan) (1619), Cauayan (1739), Carig and Lap-pau (1743), and Camarag (now Echague) (1752), Oscariz (1882), Reina Mercedes (1885) and Cordon (1896). In 1678, Governor General Juan de Vargas Hurtado sent some troops to the area for the protection of the missionaries from the pagan Gaddanes.

The province was created on March 1, 1856 and named after Queen Isabela of Spain.

Although the vast region of Isabela was already christianized, the Gaddanes and Mayoyaos in the mountains continued to resist foreign rule. In the middle of the 19th century, Don

Mariano Oscariz led a punitive campaign against these tribes who were later converted to the Christian faith by Fr. Juan Prieto.

Like Pangasinan and Ilocos, Isabela had also several uprisings. In 1762, the Silang Rebellion affected Isabela. A year later, on February 2, 1763, the people, led by a certain Dabo and Juan Marayac, revolted. In 1785, another revolt was staged by Labutao and Baladon due to grievances in tributes and the enforcement of the tobacco monopoly.

During the second phase of the Revolution in 1898, the province was controlled by the revolutionists under Colonel Daniel Tirona, as commander of the Northwestern Luzon Force. Colonel Simeon Villa took Isabela without resistance from the Spanish forces in the area. Villa established his headquarters at Carig, Isabela.

On March 23, 1901, the American forces under Colonel Frederick Funston captured General Emilio Aguinaldo in Palanan, a small town of Isabela.

The most important guerrilla force in Isabela during the Japanese occupation was led by Lt. Col. Guillermo Nakar. He organized the 14th Infantry and the intelligence network in the provinces of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan.

Isabela, since the Spanish and American regimes, has been famous all over the world for its Philippine cigars. However, the province has lately planted the Virginia leaf tobacco due to the demand from Manila's cigar and cigarette factories.

The places of attraction in the province are the Naguilian Bridge (the longest in the North), the Magat River Irrigation Dam (the biggest single unit system in the country), the old artistic church of Tumauni, the historic church ruins at San Pablo, and the Siffu Irrigation System.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ISABELA

The Province of Isabela was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Isabela

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Rice and Tobacco</i> | — Prime crops of the province.   |
| <i>Three Wave Lines</i> | — three great rivers of Isabela which are Cagayan, Pinacanauan and Siffu Rivers. |
| <i>Tower</i>            | — signifies the ancient Spanish rule.  |
| <i>Queen</i>            | — Queen Isabella of Spain, after whom the province was named.                    |



SAMPAGUITA  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF KALINGA-APAYAO

THE PROVINCE OF KALINGA-APAYAO lies between the Ilocos Provinces and the Cagayan Valley, at the northernmost part of the old Mountain Province. It is bounded on the north by Ilocos Norte and Cagayan, on the east by Cagayan and Isabela, on the south by the Mountain Province, and on the west by Abra and Ilocos Norte.

The province has a land area of 7,047.6 square kilometers and a population of 136,249 in 1970.

Kalinga is surrounded by mountains whose peaks range from 1,514 to 2,576 meters high. Geographically, it is divided into three regions: (1) the more or less mountainous western portion of the Chico River drainage basin, (2) the valley of the Chico River and its branches, and (3) the level plains between the Chico River and Cagayan Province.

Apayao descends eastward to the valley of the Cagayan River. Its most important rivers are Abulug, Talibago, Matalak and Sinundungan. The products are corn, camote, coconut and rice. It has also rich virgin forests from where beeswax and rattan are gathered.

The Dominican missions were established at Tabang and Piat, along the Chico River, in 1604, and another at Tuga, about sixteen miles south of Tuao, in 1688.

The Spaniards constructed the military posts at Balbala-sang, near the Saltan River, and at Balitokon area, near the Pacil River. They withdrew from the hinterlands of Northern Luzon at the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896. The missionaries also abandoned their mission sites in the region because of unfavorable climate which caused diseases.

At the outbreak of the Filipino-American War in 1899, the American forces pursued General Emilio Aguinaldo and his army from the capital of the Philippine Republic in Malolos (Bulacan), to Tarlak (Tarlac) and Bayambang (Pangasinan). Aguinaldo thus pushed to the north towards the provinces of La Union and Ilocos Sur, up to the settlement of the Kalingas, in Lubuagan, where the President celebrated his 31st birthday on March 22, 1900. After staying in Lubuagan for almost two months, Aguinaldo left for the Cagayan Valley and Isabela by the middle of May of the same year.

Under Act No. 1876, passed by the Philippine Legislature on August 18, 1908, the Mountain Province was made into a separate province headed by a lieutenant-governor.

Republic Act No. 4695, approved on March 11, 1966, combined the subprovinces of Kalinga and Apayao to form the Province of Kalinga-Apayao. The municipalities of the new province are Balbalan, Lubuagan, Pinukpuk, Tanudan, Tinglayan, Quirino, Liwan, Luna, Flora, Kabugao, Pudtol, Conner, Bayag and Tabuk, the capital town.

The province with wide, fertile virgin lands is a favorable mission site of the Protestants and the Catholics. The Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Catholic), the American Episcopal Mission (Protestant), and the United Brethren (Protestant) initiated the Christian missionary work in these highlands where a majority of the population belongs to the cultural minority group. The non-Christian tribes of Kalinga-Apayao have therefore been gradually acculturated and assimilated into the Filipino Christian way of life.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**SUNFLOWER**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF KALINGA-APAYAO

The Province of Kalinga-Apayao was created under R.A. 4695 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Kalingao-Apayao

<i>Green Color</i>	— stands for life, robust vegetation and wealth.
<i>Gold Stars</i>	— mineral wealth which must be tapped; also stands for dignity of character, integrity and loyalty to God and country.
<i>Mountain Ranges</i>	— the province is mountainous but cattle ranches abound in the area.
<i>Shield and Spear</i>	— the traditional weapons of the natives.
<i>Crossed Adzes</i>	— the two ethnic groups, <b>Apayao</b> and <b>Kalinga</b> .
<i>Wide Fields</i>	— signify the vast and luxuriant farms of the valley, making the the province the rice-granary of Northern Luzon.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA is bounded by the provinces of Isabela on the north, Nueva Ecija on the south, Quezon on the east, and Pangasinan and La Union on the west.

The province has a land area of 82,718 square kilometers and a population of 221,965 as of 1970.

As early as 1596, the Spanish missionaries had already penetrated the region. The first mission was at the Ituy Valley, which was founded by the Dominicans in 1632. In 1717, the Augustinians continued the evangelization of the area. Bayombong, its capital, was founded in 1737.

In 1839, Governor General Luis Lardizabal issued an order creating the politico-military province of Nueva Vizcaya, in memory of his home province, Vizcaya, Spain.

Several expeditions were repeatedly sent to Nueva Vizcaya because the natives refused to accept Spanish sovereignty. In some of these expeditions the services of Filipino chieftains were utilized. The most famous was that commanded by Don Mariano Oscariz in 1847 which carried him through the whole province. In 1856, Nueva Vizcaya ceded a big portion of its territory to Isabela, including Camarag, its former capital.

Nueva Vizcaya was affected by the Philippine Revolution in 1898 when Cagayan and Isabela fell into the hands of the revolutionary forces. The Spanish forces in the province surrendered to Colonel Jose Leyba on September 15, 1898. When General Emilio Aguinaldo asked for voluntary contributions to support the war, the Igorots of this province refused and fled to the mountains. Consequently, on August 29, 1899, the revolutionary governor of Nueva Vizcaya immediately requested for more rifles because the Igorots were preparing to attack the towns.

On November 1899, the American forces under Colonel J. Franklin Bell overtook and captured the forces of General Luciano San Miguel and General Jose Alejandrino in the mountains of northern Luzon. The next month, on November 2nd, Gen-

eral Fernando Canon surrendered the Province of Nueva Vizcaya to Lt. J.N. Munro, of the Fourth Cavalry. Although the regular Filipino army had been dissolved, Aguinaldo ordered his commanders to conduct guerrilla operations. On August 20, 1900, he appointed Captain Joaquin Velasquez as leader of the guerrillas in Nueva Vizcaya.

A civil government was established in this province on January 28, 1902, and on April 7 of the same year, a law was passed providing for the establishment of the local civil governments.

During World War II, along the 49-kilometer Santa Fe road in Nueva Vizcaya, now named Dalton Pass, a big battle between the Japanese Imperial Forces and the 25th Division of the Philippine Army was fought. About 7,403 Japanese soldiers and 2,365 Filipino troops were either killed or wounded.

During the liberation in 1942, Major Russell Volkmann divided northern Luzon into seven districts, designated units to garrison each district, and assigned a commander to each major unit. The 5th District composed of Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela was garrisoned by the 14th Infantry under Major Romulo Manriquez, who took over the command after the capture of Lt. Col. Guillermo Nakar. Captain Amado S. Bautista, commander of the 11th Engineer Combat Battalion, directed personally the organization and preparation of the ground defenses of the various units of the 11th Division in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, La Union and Pangasinan in January 1942.

In 1952, through the efforts of Congressman Leon Cabaroguis, the towns of Saguday, Diffun and Aglipay, together with Maddela, were added to the territorial limits of Nueva Vizcaya.

Under Republic Act No. 4734, the subprovince of Quirino was created in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya. Later, the subprovince was separated and made an independent and regular province by virtue of Republic Act No. 6394, approved on September 10, 1971.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

The Province of Nueva Vizcaya was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Nueva Vizcaya

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>Four Lions</i>      | — historic symbol for the almost four centuries of Spanish rule.                                    |
| <i>Narra Tree</i>      | — our national tree.  |
| <i>Three Mountains</i> | — symbol for the three (3) main surrounding ridges, namely, Caraballo, Cordillera and Sierra Madre. |
| <i>White Hill</i>      | — the famous Salinas Salt Spring.   |
| <i>Logs and Palay</i>  | — indicate a well established lumber industry and abundant rice supply of the province.             |



CAMIA  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF QUIRINO

THE PROVINCE OF QUIRINO is bounded on the north by the Province of Isabela, on the east and south by the Subprovince of Aurora (Quezon), and on the west by the Province of Nueva Vizcaya.

A small province consisting of only five municipalities, namely, Cabarroguis (its capital), Aglipay, Diffun, Maddela, and Saguday, Quirino has a land area of 3,057.2 square kilometers. The estimated population as of 1970 was 49,767. Its major industry is agriculture.

Until its creation as a province in 1971, Quirino was formerly a portion of Nueva Vizcaya.

In 1591, Luis Perez Dasmariñas explored the region. Subsequently, several Christian settlements were founded by the Dominicans in the area which later became the Cagayan Valley. On May 24, 1839, as provided by the *Real Orden* of April 10, 1841, Governor General Luis Lardizabal divided the Cagayan Valley into the provinces of Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya.

Two years after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Colonel Daniel Tirona established a revolutionary government in northern Luzon in August 1898. The same year, on September 15, the Filipino revolutionary headquarters received the notice of surrender of the Spanish forces in Nueva Vizcaya through Major Delfin Esquizel, commander of the revolutionary forces in the area.

The revolutionary government, however, was short-lived. On November 1899, Cagayan Valley surrendered to the American forces led by Captain Joseph B. Batchelder.

The Province of Nueva Vizcaya was organized by the Americans on January 28, 1902. Its local civil government was established on April 7 of the same year.

Following the outbreak of World War II in December 1941, guerrilla forces were organized under the command of Major Russell Volkmann of the USFIP-NL. Nueva Vizcaya was garrisoned by the 14th Infantry under Major Romulo Manriquez.

The present municipalities of Quirino—Diffun, Saguday, Aglipay and Maddela—were originally the northeastern portion of Nueva Vizcaya, on the other side of the Sierra Madre mountains. Due to their great distances from the provincial capital, Congressman Leonardo B. Perez introduced a bill in 1966. It proposed the creation of the Subprovince of Quirino, in honor of the late president of the Republic, Elpidio Quirino. The bill which became Republic Act No. 4734 was approved on June 18, 1966. Later, on June 21, 1969, R.A. No. 5554 provided for the segregation of Quirino Subprovince from Nueva Vizcaya. It further provided for the creation of the Municipality of Cabarroguis from some barrios and sitios of the municipalities of Diffun and Aglipay.

However, Congressman Floro Crisologo and Melanio Singson sponsored a bill that would separate Quirino from Nueva Vizcaya and give it an independent political status. R.A. No. 6394 finally created the Province of Quirino on September 10, 1971.

Among the tourist attractions of the province are the natural caves in Diffun and Saguday, and the Ponggo River valley in Maddela.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF QUIRINO

The Province of Quirino was created under R.A. 4734 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Quirino

- Sun with Eight Rays* — the eight provinces that first revolted against the Spanish Government.
- Mountain Ranges* — Mamparam and Palale Ranges in the Sierra Madre Mountains, main sources of forest products and wild life.
- Three Routes* — the Addalan, Canwap and Diduyan Rivers forming the Cagayan River.
- Plants* — corn, rice and tobacco, main agricultural products of the province.
- Three Logs* — main source of income of the province mainly abundant in the municipalities of Aglipay and Maddela.



MARIPOSA  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN

THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN, a jutting land mass in the southwestern part of Luzon, is bounded on the north by the provinces of Zambales and Pampanga, on the west by the China Sea, and on the south and east by the Manila Bay. It has a land area of 1,373 square kilometers and a population of 216,210 in 1970.

Bataan was the first in the neighborhood of Manila where a mission site was established by the Dominican missionaries. They were given the exclusive right of ministration on September 15, 1587.

In the 17th century, the Dutch plundered the coasts of the peninsula. The Dutch Admiral, Oliver Van Noort, encountered the Spanish-Filipino Army commanded by Antonio de Morga, then *oidor* of the Royal Audiencia, in 1600.

The province was founded out of the territory of Pampanga and from the *corregimiento* of Mariveles in 1754 by Governor General Pedro Manuel Arandia. It consisted of the towns of Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Abucay, Samal, Orani, Llana-Hermosa, San Juan de Dinalupihan, Mariveles, Bagac, Morong and Maragondon.

After the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Bataan joined the other provinces that revolted against Spanish rule. When the Filipino-American war ended, a civil government was established in the province in 1901.

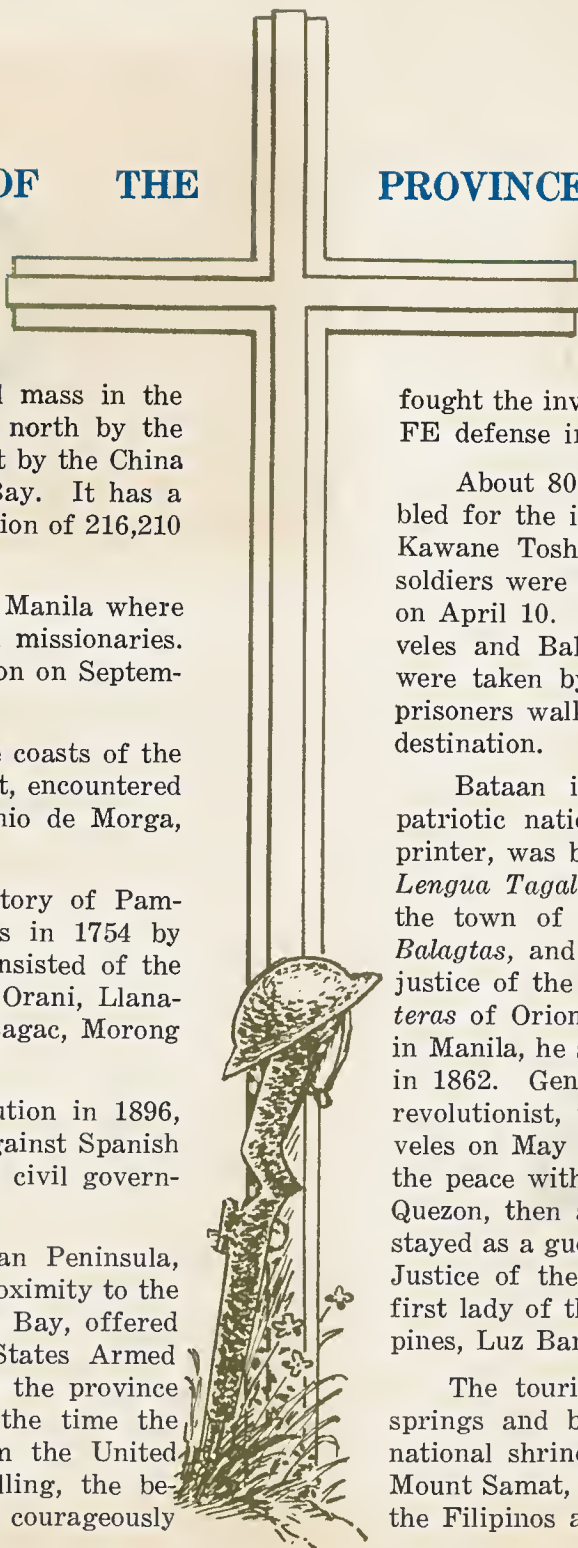
During the Pacific War in 1945, the Bataan Peninsula, considered as strategically important due to its proximity to the Central Plain, Manila Bay, China Sea and Subic Bay, offered an ideal defensive terrain. Thus, the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFEF) retreated to the province where they undertook an active defense until the time the expected aid or reinforcement would come from the United States. Under heavy aircraft and artillery shelling, the beleaguered Filipino-American troops valiantly and courageously

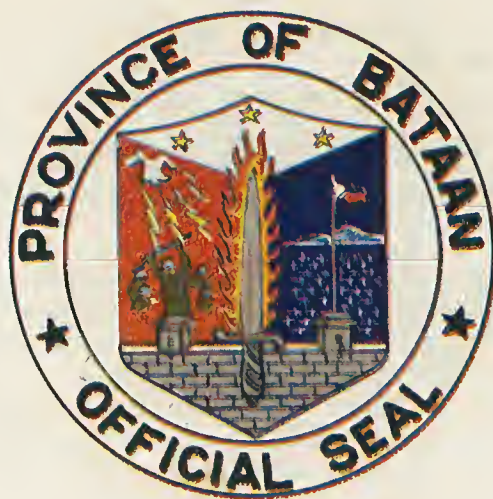
fought the invading hordes. On April 9, 1942, the final USAF-FE defense in Bataan collapsed.

About 80,000 Filipino and American soldiers were assembled for the infamous "Death March." Under Major General Kawane Toshimitsu, the battle-weary Filipino and American soldiers were grouped in Mariveles on April 9, and in Balanga on April 10. The prisoners were forced to march from Mariveles and Balanga to San Fernando, Pampanga, where they were taken by train to Capas, Tarlac. And from there, the prisoners walked another eight miles to Camp O'Donnel, their destination.

Bataan is also historically associated with noted and patriotic national figures. Tomas Pinpin, the first Filipino printer, was born in Bataan. He printed *Arte y Reglas de la Lengua Tagala*, by Father Francisco Blancas de San Jose, in the town of Abucay. Francisco Baltazar, better known as *Balagtas*, and author of *Florante at Laura*, was an auxiliary justice of the peace, *teniente mayor*, and later *juez de sementeras* of Orion. After his imprisonment in the Bilibid Prison in Manila, he spent the rest of his life in Orion, until his death in 1862. General Artemio Ricarte, the irreconcilable Filipino revolutionist, was captured by the American forces in Mariveles on May 29, 1904. He was then a clerk of the justice of the peace with an assumed name of "Jose Garcia." Manuel L. Quezon, then a young major under General Tomas Mascardo, stayed as a guerrilla fighter in Bagac. Cayetano Arellano, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was born in Orion. And the first lady of the third President of the Republic of the Philippines, Luz Banzon Magsaysay, hails from Balanga.

The tourist and historical spots of Bataan are the hot springs and beach resorts along the coastal towns, and the national shrine, Dambana ng Kagitingan (Altar of Valor) in Mount Samat, Pilar. Majestically on top of a hill, it symbolizes the Filipinos as champions of the cause of liberty.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BATAAN

The Province of Bataan was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bataan



SAMPAGUITA  
*Provincial Flower*

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Flaming Sword</i>      | — the Flaming Sword of Bataan, symbol of the bravery of our soldiers during World War II and the guerilla movement that followed later. |
| <i>Three Golden Stars</i> | — represent the three geographical regions that contributed their sons in the bloody resistance of World War II.                        |
| <i>Red Panel</i>          | — depicts the battles fought in Bataan and in the country.  |
| <i>Blue Panel</i>         | — depicts the peace of the night that followed.   |



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN

BULACAN, located north of Manila, is surrounded by Nueva Ecija on the north and northeast, Quezon on the east, Rizal on the south, Manila Bay on the south and southwest, and Pampanga on the west. With a land area of 267,203 hectares, its western half lies in the Central Plain of Luzon and is drained by the Angat Watershed and the Ipo Dam in north-eastern Bulacan to Manila Bay. The eastern portion, of less developed uplands that gradually increase in altitude, are the foothills of the Sierra Madre and the Eastern Cordillera. Composed of 24 municipalities with a population of 555,819 in 1960, the province is generally tilted towards the east, although the rainfalls from the mountains and foothills flow to the west.

Believed to be known by its ancient name, "Ma-yi", Bulacan was one of the earliest provinces founded by the Spaniards in 1572. The present name, however, was derived from the Tagalog word *Bulac* (meaning cotton), its former principal product. A chronicler of the Order of St. Augustine said that "the province of Bulacan can be called the most beautiful of the Tagalog regions and the paradise of Luzon."

In the early years of the Spanish conquest, there already existed thriving native settlements from which were founded the towns of Bulacan (1572), Calumpit (1572) Malolos (1580), Hagonoy (1580), Bigaa (now Balagtas 1596), Quingwa (now Plaridel 1601), Paombong (1619), Guiguinto (1641), Angat (1683), San Miguel de Mayumo (1725), Baliwag (1732), San Jose del Monte (1749), and San Rafael (1750).

Early records show no serious uprisings such as those that plagued other provinces. Rather, it aligned itself with the Spanish government. During the Sangley insurrection from 1638 to 1640, the residents helped the Spanish forces in dispersing the Chinese in Bulacan. The only disorder in Malolos was in 1643 when the short-lived activities of a certain Don Pedro Ladia were quickly foiled. A native of Borneo, he claimed to be a descendant of Raja Matanda and exhorted the people to overthrow the Spanish rule and place him in power as their king.

During the British invasion in 1762, Lieutenant General Simon de Anda y Salazar escaped to Bulacan before the capitulation of Manila. With the assistance of native allies, he fiercely fought and resisted the invaders under Captain Slay.

In 1848, the town of San Miguel de Mayumo was annexed to the province of Pampanga.

Sharing the revolutionary limelight in 1896, the Bulakeños and the Spaniards engaged heavily in bloody encounters, as in the other first seven provinces that rose up in arms, until the famous "Pact of Biyak na bato" was signed on December 14-15, 1897.

During the second phase of the Philippine revolution, Malolos became the capital of the archipelago on September 9, 1898. A portion of the *casa Real* was then used as a printing office of the revolutionary papers "*Kalayaan*" and "*La Independencia*." At Barasoain Church in Malolos, the Constitution of the first Philippine Republic was drafted by the Malolos Congress. And, a colorful historic and significant inauguration of the Republic was also held in this capital town.

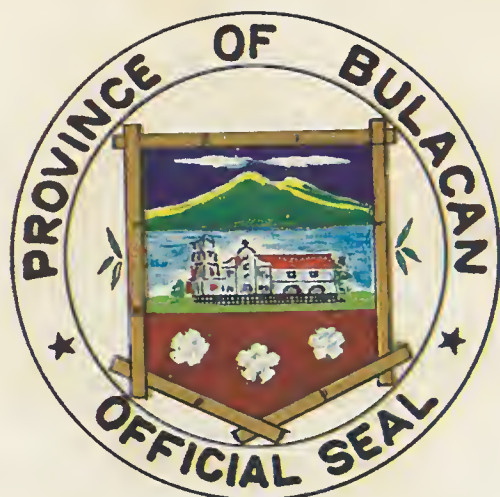
When the Philippine-American War broke out, the forces under General Emilio Aguinaldo, after suffering successive defeats, were pursued from Malolos to Baliwag by the U.S. Third Infantry Regiment led by Colonel Page. Thus, the seat of the national government was transferred from Malolos to San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, in April 1899.

Later, a civil government was established by the Americans in Bulacan. Baliwag held its first election on May 6, 1899—the first in the province of Bulacan and even in the Philippines. With the enactment of *Public Law No. 88* by the Philippine Commission, on February 27, 1901, Malolos became the capital of the province.

When the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied the Philippines in 1942, several guerrilla units operated and fought the invaders in Bulacan. Two of the well-known units were the Bulacan Military Area under the command of then USAFFE Captain Alejo Santos and the HUKBALAHAP (*Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon*) led by *Luis Taruc*.

Bulacan is the home of national and local figures: Francisco Baltazar (Balagtas), "Prince of Filipino Poets"; Marcelo H. del Pilar, "Great Propagandist"; Gregorio del Pilar, "Hero of Tirad Pass"; Mariano Ponce, managing editor of *La Solidaridad*; Teodoro Sandiko, General and Secretary of Interior of the first Philippine Republic; and Isidro Torres, an outstanding general of Bulacan.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BULACAN

The Province of Bulacan was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bulacan

#### *Mountains*

—symbolize the hills of Kakarong and Biak-na-Bato, in the town of Pandi, where the first and second Bulacan Republic were proclaimed.

#### *Church*

—Barasoain Church or Baras ng Suwail (abode of the belligerents) where the first Philippine Republic was proclaimed in 1898.

#### *Flower*

—sampaguita, the national flower of the Philippines and official flower of the province.

#### *Bamboo Enclosure*

—connotes the true spirit of the Bulakeños that could weather the storms and tempests of life; thorns stand for their fighting spirit in times of aggression and tyranny.



SAMPAGUITA  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA

THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, the "Rice Bowl" of the Philippines, is bounded on the north by Pangasinan and Nueva Vizcaya, on the east by Nueva Vizcaya and Quezon, on the south by Pampanga and Bulacan, and on the west by Tarlac and Pangasinan.

Nueva Ecija, with a land area of 5,284.3 square kilometers and a population of 156,610 in 1887 and 851,294 in 1970, comprises 29 municipalities, 3 cities (Cabanatuan, San Jose and Palayan), and 600 barrios. It is protected on three sides by mountain ranges: the Sierra Madre on the east, the Caraballo on the north, and the Cordillera on the west.

In 1701, the Spanish Governor General, Don Fausto Cruzat y Gongora, created the province and named it Nueva Ecija in honor of his hometown, Ecija, in Seville, Spain. Originally a part of Pampanga, the new province acquired territories from the adjacent provinces. In 1818, Nueva Ecija annexed the towns of Palanan, (from the Province of Isabela), and Baler, Casiguran, Infanta and Polillo Island (from the Province of Tayabas, now Quezon). In 1848, the province acquired the towns of Gapan, San Isidro, Cabiao, San Antonio and Aliaga from Pampanga.

Nueva Ecija was one of the first eight provinces that took up arms against the Spanish government on August 30, 1896; it was declared by Governor General Ramon Blanco as "in a state of war." Because of its unique location, the province became the center of military activities during the Filipino-American War. When General Emilio Aguinaldo retreated to the province, he occupied strategic places and made Cabanatuan as the temporary seat of the government from May 9, 1899 until the national capital was transferred to Bamban, Tarlac.

In the convent of the Church of Cabanatuan, General Antonio Luna was treacherously killed on June 5, 1899 by Captain Pedro Janolino and other soldiers whom Luna previously disarmed for insubordination at Polo, Bulacan. Luna's aide, Colonel Francisco Roman, who came to the rescue, was also killed by the presidential guards in the church premises.

During the American campaign against the Filipino forces of the first Philippine Republic in 1899, the American forces, after occupying Nueva Ecija, organized a new government headed by Felino Cajucom as governor. The provincial seat of government was in San Isidro, [the former capitals were Baler (now in Quezon), Bongabon and Cabanatuan]. After the cessation of hostilities, a civil government was established on June 11, 1901, and in 1912, the provincial capital was again returned to Cabanatuan. When Republic Act No. 4475, approved on June 19, 1965, created the City of Palayan, the capital was transferred to the new city.

Cabanatuan was occupied by the Japanese Imperial Forces on February 1, 1942. The town was made a Prisoner of War (POW) Camp for about 16,000 American soldiers. On January 30, 1945, a company of the 6th Ranger Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Mucci, assisted by Filipino guerrillas, launched a surprise attack at the Japanese POW Camp and liberated all the captives.

Nueva Ecija is often referred to as the "Educational Center of Central Luzon" because of its 536 schools (482 public and 54 private). There are two state colleges in the province, the Central Luzon Polytechnic College and the Central Luzon State University.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIIJA

The Province of Nueva Ecija was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Nueva Ecija

<i>Three Stars</i>	— Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.	<i>Structure between the Two Stacks</i>	— humble home of the Novo-Ecijano farmer.
<i>Mountains</i>	— Caraballo and Sierra Madre Mountains, prominent landmarks north and northeastern part of the province.	<i>Two Rice Stacks or Mandala</i>	— main agricultural farm produce of the farmers.
<i>Carabao Head</i>	— the common work-animal, friend and companion of the Novo-Ecijano farmer.	<i>Blue Background</i>	— the peaceful sky over the Novo-Ecijanos.
		<i>Yellow Background</i>	— ripened palay, ready for harvest.
		<i>Green Background</i>	— the robust plants in the farms.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA

THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA is bounded on the north by Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, on the east by Bulacan, on the south by the Manila Bay, and on the west by Zambales and Bataan.

The province had a population of 904,748 in 1970. It has a land area of 2,180.7 square kilometers.

Basically an agricultural region, Pampanga was the site of a land reform pilot project during the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal. Rice and sugar cane are its important crops.

Pampanga was already the site of a thriving settlement before the Spaniards came, and the populous settlements were found along the banks of the rivers and riverine areas. The settlers were then referred to as the *Kapangpangans* or "the people by the river bank."

Martin de Goiti explored Pampanga. The province was completely controlled by the Spaniards by the middle of 1572.

Unsuccessful local revolts occurred in Pampanga as early as the 16th century. In 1585, the Pampangos revolted against the abuses of the *encomenderos*. In 1660, Francisco Maniago led the people in an armed uprising caused by the imposition of forced labor and the excessive collection of tributes.

During the British invasion of Manila, Simon de Anda y Salazar escaped to Pampanga on October 4, 1763 and later led the Spanish forces in the province, after the surrender of Manila to the British on October 5, 1762.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the province was controlled by the revolutionary forces of General

Mariano Llanera. The local revolutionary groups from Bacolor, Macabebe and Masantol joined the revolution.

During the Filipino-American War, the capital town of San Fernando fell into the hands of the American Forces. On May 5, 1899, the forces of Generals Tomas Mascardo and Antonio Luna were defeated by the troops of General Arthur MacArthur. Later, Pampanga was controlled by General Frederick Dent Grant, Commander of Northern Luzon 5th Military District, with headquarters in San Fernando. On February 13, 1901, the Americans established a civil government in Pampanga, retaining Bacolor as its capital.

Since the first decades of the 20th century, the province had been the seat of agrarian troubles. It was composed mostly of landed estates administered by powerful landlords.

During the Second World War, Pampanga was the seat of the *Hukbalahap*, (Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon) or the People's Army against the Japanese. Organized as a guerrilla unit, it later became the nucleus of the New People's Army.

Pampanga has produced several eminent Filipinos, namely: Jose Abad Santos, World War II hero and martyr; Vidal Tan and Bienvenido Gonzales, former UP presidents; and Diosdado Macapagal, fifth president of the Republic of the Philippines.

Pampanga is noted for its old colonial churches in the towns of Guagua, Apalit, Magalang and San Fernando.

With the majestic Mount Arayat, the hiding place of the protesting peasantry, Pampanga is the site of the Clark Air Base, the home of the 13th Air Force of the Armed Forces of the United States in the Far East.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA

The Province of Pampanga was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Pampanga

<i>Twenty Two Stars</i>	— represent the original 22 towns of the province.		of the province.
<i>Shield Division</i>	— upper portion represents the first district, and lower portion represents the second.	<i>Sugar Cane Plant and Sugar Mill</i>	— represent the sugar industry which used to be the main industry of the province.
<i>Mountain</i>	— the Zambales mountain range which borders the western part	<i>Lower Portion</i>	— represents the rice industry of the province.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC

TARLAC PROVINCE, popularly known as the "melting pot of Luzon," is bounded on the north by Pangasinan, on the east by Nueva Ecija, on the south by Pampanga, and on the west by Zambales.

The province has a land area of 3,053.4 square kilometers. It had a population of 559,708 in 1970.

Basically agricultural, Tarlac produces sugarcane, rice, corn and bean. Rattan and bamboo are other products. It has a rich deposit of copper. Cattle is also raised, especially in areas along the slopes of Mt. Arayat.

The early towns founded in the province were Paniqui in 1574, Tarlac in 1686, and Bamban and Capas in 1710.

On account of the Palaris revolt in Pangasinan in 1762, the inhabitants of Paniqui took up arms against the Spanish authorities. The natives, however, were repulsed by the military forces of Manuel Arza.

In 1860, a politico-military *comandancia* was created out of the towns of Concepcion, Bamban, Capas, Mabalacat, Magalang, Porac, Floridablanca, Victoria and Tarlac. In 1874, Tarlac was formally organized as a province. It included the towns of Camiling, Gerona and Paniqui from Pangasinan. At the same time, it ceded Mabalacat, Floridablanca and Magalang to Pampanga.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Tarlac was one of the first eight provinces that rose in arms against Spain. Governor General Ramon Blanco proclaimed martial law in Tarlac and seven other provinces on August 30, 1896. In La Paz, a bloody skirmish took place between the Spaniards and the Filipino revolutionists when General Francisco Makabulos seized the Spanish garrison. Consequently, on April 17, 1898,

Makabulos organized a revolutionary government in Tarlac, called the *Comite Central Directivo-Centro y Norte de Luzon* (General Executive Committee for Central and Northern Luzon).

During the Filipino-American War, after San Isidro fell into the hands of the Americans, General Emilio Aguinaldo transferred the seat of the evolutionary Government to Tarlac, Tarlac, on October 12, 1899.

On October 23, 1899, Gregorio Aglipay, Military Vicar General of the Revolutionary Forces, called the Filipino clergy to an ecclesiastical conference at Paniqui where the Assembly drafted the Provisional Constitution of the Philippine Independent Church. Aglipay and the Filipino clergy then led a movement for the Filipinization of the clergy that caused the religious schism in the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines.

Almost a month later, the American forces occupied Tarlac on November 12, 1899. A civil government was established in the province on February 18, 1901.

At the outbreak of World War II, a concentration camp was set up at Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac, the terminal point of the "Death March," wherein Filipino and American soldiers participated, after the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

During the Japanese occupation, the guerrilla forces in the towns of Paniqui, Gerona, Ramos and Porac were organized as a part of the East Central Luzon Guerrilla Area, First Regiment, under the command of Colonel Jose Maristela. Tarlac was liberated from the Japanese invaders on January 21, 1945.

The Maria Clara Museum, owned by Dr. Carlos Kipping, Jr. (grandson of Leonor Rivera), is in the town of Camiling, Tarlac.





*Provincial Flag*



*Provincial Flag*



**KAMPUPOT**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF TARLAC

The Province of Tarlac was created under R.A. 5907 on June 21, 1969.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Tarlac

- Three Stars* — represent the island groups of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
- Three Clustered Plants* — represent rice, corn and sugar three major products of the province.
- Center Portion* — intertwined vines stand for the groups of people binding themselves together to form a sturdy, healthy, vigorous and freedom-loving citizenry.
- Golden Horizon* — represents an "ever-burning desire to secure life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness under a regime of justice and democracy."



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES

ZAMBALES, situated along the western coast of Luzon, is bounded on the north and northwest by Pangasinan, on the east by Tarlac, and on the southeast by Bataan. Its entire western coast is the China Sea.

Composed of 13 municipalities and a city, it has a land area of 3,714.4 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 343,034.

The area comprising the western half of the province consists of virgin lands covered with extensive forests where timber and other mineral resources abound. The coastal plains are suited to the cultivation of rice, coconut, sugarcane, tobacco and mango.

Zambales has two trading and commercial centers, Olongapo City and the capital town of Iba.

The name of the province was derived from its earliest inhabitants, the Zambals. Even before the Spanish colonizers came, the Zambals had already established themselves in several villages that became the nucleus of the present towns of Zambales.

In 1572, Juan de Salcedo explored the provinces of Zambales, Pangasinan, La Union and Cagayan. He landed at Cape Bolinao, then a part of Zambales. The Spaniards were able to repulse a group of Chinese pirates off the coast of Bolinao; hence, they earned the goodwill of the natives.

Zambales was one of the earliest provinces created during the Spanish colonial administration. As founded in the 16th century, the Province of Zambales includes all the coastal plains and valleys from the Gulf of Lingayen down south towards Subic Bay. Among the earliest towns created were Masinloc (1607), Iba (1611), and Sta. Cruz (1612).

The Zambals, one of the bravest and most warlike peoples of the country, joined the local revolts in Pampanga in 1645 and the Pangasinan revolt led by Andres Malong in 1660.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the people of Zambales also rose up in arms against the Spanish government. General Ricardo Monet, charged with putting down the rebellion in the North, first rushed to the province with the Filipino auxiliaries who later deserted and joined the revolutionists. By February 1896, the revolutionists of Zambales, with those of Malolos, Bulacan, attacked the Spanish garrisons in Zambales and Pangasinan. On December 6, 1899, General Luciano San Miguel reorganized the *Katipunan* in Zambales.

In 1901, the Americans established a civil government in the province. The northern portion of Zambales, consisting of the towns of Alaminos, Agno, Bani, Bolinao, Infanta, and San Isidro, were ceded to Pangasinan in 1903.

During World War II, the first guerrilla unit in Central Luzon was organized by Lieutenant Colonel Claude Armenuis Thorpe. Its headquarters was located along the Pampanga-Zambales borders.

The panoramic tourist spots of Zambales are Villa Lolita Tropical Paradise in Iba, and the Half-Moon Beach in Olongapo City. Hermana Mayor, one of the small islands off the northwestern coast of the province, was awarded as a grand prize—the privilege “to own” the island throughout her reign—to the winner of the 1975 Miss Universe.

Zambales is the home province of noted Filipinos. Teodoro R. Yangco, the philanthropist and shipping magnate, was from San Antonio, and the third president of the Republic of the Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay, hailed from Castillejos.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES

The Province of Zambales was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Zambales

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Wheel and Axes</i>             | — represent Zambales' commerce and industry, respectively.   |
| <i>Helmet and Pick Axes</i>       | — stand for the mining industry of the province.   |
| <i>Plow and Bushel of Grains</i>  | — symbolize agriculture.   |
| <i>Colors Red, White and Blue</i> | — red stands for commerce and bravery; white for agriculture and purity; and blue for mining and peace.                          |
| <i>Mountain Ranges</i>            | — represent virgin lands and forests and minerals, fertile plains and valleys running north and south parallel to the coastline. |



GUMAMELA  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE SUBPROVINCE OF AURORA

THE SUBPROVINCE OF AURORA occupies the northern portion of Quezon Province. It is bounded on the north by Isabela, on the south by the northern part of Quezon, on the east by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west by Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija.

It has a land area of 3,239.6 square kilometers. In 1970, the population of the subprovince was 82,032. Its important crops are rice, abaca, copra, sugar cane, tobacco, cacao, fruits and vegetables.

Aurora was first explored by Juan de Salcedo in 1571 when he led an expedition from Laguna to Paracale (Camarines Norte). The following year, Salcedo explored the northern coast of Luzon and visited Casiguran, Baler and Infanta.

Like many regions bordering the sea, Aurora also suffered from numerous Muslim depredations almost to the end of Spanish rule. Casiguran, Palanan and Baler were raided by a fleet of Muslim boats in 1798, destroying the settlements and capturing some of its inhabitants.

In 1814, Jose de Torres, Manuel Cuyo and Gregorio Palacio founded the village named Bondo. The *visita*, composed of the sitios of Maayas, Mayabak, Maycampana and Kuling, became the present municipality of Aurora.

In 1841, the revolt of the members of the *Confradia de San Jose*, led by Apolinario de la Cruz, spread to Quezon and the neighboring provinces of Laguna and Batangas.

Quezon (formerly Tayabas) also joined the Philippine Revolution in 1898. On August 15 of the same year, General

Miguel Malvar took possession of the province in the name of the revolutionary government. During the period, Bondo, under the municipal jurisdiction of Malunay, was made as a separate municipality.

Until 1902, when Baler was ceded to Tayabas by Nueva Ecija, the region was referred to as *Distrito de Principe*, where the *comandancia* of the *comandante politico militar* was established.

During the Commonwealth period, when President Manuel L. Quezon unexpectedly visited Bondo, the municipality was enlarged and named Aurora in honor of his wife.

Later, on June 14, 1951, the region comprising the municipalities of Baler, Casiguran, Dilasag, Dinadiawan, Dipaculao, Dinalungan, Dingalan, Maria Aurora and San Luis were created as a subprovince of Quezon under Republic Act No. 648. Although the municipality of Aurora retained its name, the subprovince also adapted the name Aurora in honor of the wife of the late Commonwealth president.

Two of the outstanding national figures of the Subprovince of Aurora were Manuel L. Quezon, the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth, and his wife, Aurora Aragon Quezon, an outstanding woman who was active in the cause of charity and social welfare, and who served as Chairman of Philippine National Red Cross until her death.

The historical markers in Aurora Subprovince are the birthplace of Manuel L. Quezon, the Church of Baler, and the Lt. Gilmore Rescue Party, all in Baler.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## SUBPROVINCE OF AURORA

The Province of Aurora was created under R.A. 648 on June 14, 1951.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Aurora

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Mountain</i>   | — symbol of Cape Encanto Point.   |
| <i>Sun</i>        | — stands for the rising sun from the East—Aurora is a sub-province east of the Philippines. |
| <i>Twin Rocks</i> | — coast and geodetic survey points in Baler.  |
| <i>Coconut</i>    | — eight (8) leaves with eight nuts represent eight towns of the sub-province.               |
| <i>Stars</i>      | — also stand for the eight towns of Aurora.   |



DOÑA AURORA  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS

THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS is bounded on the north by the provinces of Cavite and Laguna, on the east by the provinces of Quezon and Laguna, on the south by the Verde Island Passage, and on the west by the South China Sea.

It has a land area of 3,165.8 square kilometers with the mountain ranges of Makulot, Malarayap, Lobo, Banga and Batulaw, and with the rivers of Paliko, Obispo, Pansipit, Kalumpang and Bankon. The plains are cultivated for coffee, sugar cane and citrus, and the uplands are planted with rice. It is also famous for cattle and race horses.

Batangas had a population of 926,308 in 1970. The people are well-known for their embroidery industry and fishing activity in the rich fishing grounds off the Batangas Coast, Balayan Bay, Batangas Bay and Verde Island Passage.

In 1570, Martin de Goiti and Juan de Salcedo explored the coast of Batangas and came upon a Malay settlement at the mouth of Taal River. In 1572, the town of Taal was founded and its convent and stone church were constructed later.

Batangas was founded in 1581. It was composed of the present provinces of Batangas, Mindoro, Marinduque, and the area southeast of Laguna, as far as Camarines. The province was called Bombon or Balayan and its capital was the town of Balayan. In 1732, the capital was transferred to Taal and the province was named after its new capital. Again, in 1754, the capital was moved to Batangas, and the province was finally called after the capital town.

The province, one of the first eight provinces which revolted against Spain, was placed under martial law by Governor General Ramon Blanco on August 30, 1896.

Batangas has been known as the home of heroes and nationalists. Miguel Malvar, one of the first Batangueños to join the revolution and the last Filipino general to surrender

to the Americans, was born in Santo Tomas. Felipe Agoncillo, minister plenipotentiary of the first Philippine Republic, representative of the First District of Batangas, and Secretary of the Interior under Governor General Leonard Wood, was born in Taal. His wife, Marcela, sewed the first Filipino flag which was hoisted during the proclamation of Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898. General Nicolas Lantin Gonzales, leader of the *Batalyon Makiling* under General Malvar and governor of Batangas from 1916 to 1919, was born in Tanauan. Apolinario Mabini, the sublime paralytic and "Brains of the Revolution", also chief adviser of General Aguinaldo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and President of the Government Council of the first Philippine Republic, was also born in Barrio Talaga, Tanauan.

The Laurels are from Tanauan too. The elder Sotero was the delegate to the Malolos Congress and the Secretary of the Interior in the Aguinaldo Cabinet. His son, Jose Paciano, was the President of the Japanese-sponsored Philippine Republic from 1943 to 1945.

The historical spots in the province are the Talaga Mabini Shrine, where the replica of the house of Mabini and a mausoleum houses the relics, and publications of and about the hero; and the four-century-old Church of Taal, which was also declared as a national shrine.

The tourist attractions in Batangas are the panoramic Taal Lake (formerly Bombon Lake) where the Taal Volcano, the lowest crater in the world and the most active in the country, is found (the volcano erupted in 1591, 1634, 1645, 1729, 1754, 1801, 1904, 1911, and in 1965); the submarine gardens in Laiya, San Juan; the subterranean caves of Pulangsay; the Kamantigue and Motoco Hills; the Tombol Springs in Rosario; and the Tinga Falls, a "pocket edition of Pagsanjan Falls".





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BATANGAS

The Province of Batangas was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Batangas

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <i>Horse</i>   | — symbol of the white horse and cattle for which the province is noted.  |
| <i>Galleon</i> | — goes back to the past when, during the Spanish regime, galleons sought the safety of the province's numerous bays and coves. |
| <i>Citrus</i>  | — the chief produce of the province.   |



CABALLERO  
(Fire Tree)  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE is bounded by the Province of Rizal and Manila Bay on the north, Batangas on the south, Laguna on the east, and Manila Bay on the west. It has a land area of 128,755 hectares, consisting of 19 municipalities and three cities, (with Tagaytay as the largest, Trece Martires as the provincial capital, and Cavite as the smallest but the most populated).

The province had a population of 519,040 in 1970. The most important agricultural crops grown on its volcanic soil are rice, banana, sugar, cacao, coffee, coconut and papaya.

Cavite, originally referred to the present Cavite City (formerly of Kawit), was derived from the Tagalog word "*cavit*," meaning a "hook." The portion was used as a shelter port during the expeditions from Panay to Manila by Martin de Goiti and Juan de Salcedo in 1570, and Miguel Lopez de Legazpi in 1571. It became a port of entry and departure of Spanish vessels, including the galleons from Mexico and other countries. The name of the place was later adopted for the province.

In 1614, Cavite was created as a politico-military province, except Maragondon and the neighboring region which belonged to the *corregimiento* of Mariveles until it was annexed to Cavite in 1754.

As a consequence of the Sangley Insurrection in Manila, in December 1639, about 2,550 Chinese were killed in Cavite.

On January 20, 1872, the mutiny at the Cavite arsenal led by Sergeant Lamadrid caused the implication, and finally the execution, of Filipino priests Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Cavite was the center of the military operations of the Filipino Revolutionary Forces. On November 11, 1896, General Emilio Aguinaldo repulsed the Spanish forces at Binakayan, Kawit. However, early in 1897, the Spaniards massively counterattacked Cavite. They successively reoccupied the towns of the province, causing

Aguinaldo to transfer his headquarters to Biak-na-bato in San Miguel de Mayumo, Bulacan.

On May 2, 1898, a day after the Battle of Manila Bay, Alexander Hill hoisted the first American flag at the Cavite arsenal. Similarly, on the 28th, after a battle against the Spaniards at Imus, the revolutionists hoisted the first Filipino flag which Aguinaldo brought from exile.

On June 12, 1898, Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippine Independence at his residence in Kawit, Cavite. Bacoor became the revolutionary capital until the seat of government was transferred to Malolos, Bulacan.

After the establishment of a civil government in Cavite, in 1901, several municipalities and cities were subsequently created, namely, Noveleta (formerly called *Tierra Alta* and a part of Kawit), 1908; Ternate (formerly of Naic), 1914; Mendez-Nunez, 1915; Dasmariñas (formerly a barrio of Imus), 1916; Tagaytay City, created by Commonwealth Act No. 338 on June 21, 1938; Cavite City, established by C.A. No. 547 on May 26, 1940; and Trece Martires City (the provincial capital), created by virtue of Republic Act No. 981, dated May 24, 1954.

Some of the outstanding sons of Cavite are Emilio Aguinaldo, president of the first Philippine Republic; Felipe G. Calderon, "father" of the Malolos Constitution; Roman Basa, second president of the Katipunan, and Pascual H. Poblete, a journalist and Filipino translator of Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*.

During World War II, the Fil-American Cavite Guerrilla Forces (FACGF) under Colonel Mariano N. Castañeda and the American Liberation Forces jointly liberated Cavite Province on February 4, 1945, except Ternate where the Japanese forces fled to escape the FACGF.

Aside from the historic Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, the scenic Tagaytay City, atop a ridge (2,000 feet above sea level) overlooking Taal Lake, is a main tourist attraction.





*Provincial Seal*



**CAMIA**  
*Provincial Flower*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF CAVITE

The Province of Cavite was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cavite

<i>Monument</i>	— represents the Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite.
<i>Bridge</i>	— the Zapote Bridge, site of a decisive battle during the Philippine Revolution.
<i>Shrine Facade (center)</i>	— the facade of the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo shrine in Kawit.
<i>Staff with Musical Notes</i>	— represents the Philippine National Anthem first played in Cavite from a composition by a Caviteño, Don Julian Felipe.
<i>Philippine Flag</i>	— the original flag used in Kawit during the independence proclamation in 1898.
<i>Scroll with Inscription</i>	— its text “Dangal at Pag-ibig sa Bayan” represents the true Caviteño spirit.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA

LAGUNA derived its name from "La Laguna" (the lake), the longest inland body of water in the Philippines. With a land area of 1,759.73 square kilometers, it is bounded by the Provinces of Rizal in the north, Batangas in the south, Quezon in the east, and Cavite in the west. As of 1970, it had a population of 699,736.

From Manila in 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi ordered an expedition under Juan de Salcedo to Cainta and Taytay and, after both had been conquered, Salcedo pacified the coastal towns of Laguna de Bay.

In 1577, the Franciscan missionaries arrived in Manila and, thereafter, in 1578 they started evangelizing Laguna, Rizal, Tayabas (now Quezon) and the Bicol Peninsula. Fathers Juan de Placencia and Diego de Oropeza were the earliest Franciscans sent to these places. From 1580 to 1583, the towns of Bay, Caliraya, Majayjay, Nagcarlan, Lilio, Pila, Sta. Cruz, Lumban, Pañgil and Siniloan were founded. In 1678, Fray Hernando Cabrera founded San Pablo de los Montes (now San Pablo City) and built a wooden church and convent considered as the best and finest in the province.

In 1670, delimitations of borders were made between Lucban, Majayjay and Cavite. The populous town at that time was Bay, the capital of the province until 1688, when the seat of the provincial government was moved to Pagsanjan, and later, in 1858, to Sta. Cruz. In 1754, the provinces of Laguna and Tayabas were divided, with the Malinao River separating the towns of Majayjay and Lucban.

There were numerous protests and dissensions against the civil authorities and the regular clergy in Laguna. In 1639, the Chinese revolted in Calamba due to the excessive abuses perpetrated by the provincial governor. And from 1885 to 1891, Rizal's family and the other tenants in Calamba had a controversy with the Friar Administrator of the Dominicans.

In 1762, when Governor Simon de Anda left Manila to organize the resistance against the British, 400 soldiers volunteered from Majayjay and 800 from the other towns of Laguna. They harassed and fought the British in San Pablo and Lipa. They also pledged loyalty to the King of Spain by keeping the Royal Treasury which was in danger of being seized by the British.

In 1841, when the "*Cofradia de San Jose*," a fanatical organization founded by Apolinario de la Cruz, spread throughout Laguna, many of its members revolted and defeated the forces of the Spanish governor. The government immediately dispatched a detachment of regular troops which defeated and dispersed them. Apolinario de la Cruz was captured and shot.

Laguna joined the revolution late in 1896. During the early months, the military leaders met secretly in the underground cemetery of Nagcarlan. The province was declared in a state of war when Governor General Ramon Blanco declared martial law on August 30, 1896. He organized 1,500 men under General Aguirre at three points: the first at Noveleta, second at Binakayan, and the third at Calamba. And, Laguna was pacified within a few days.

In 1896, Emilio Jacinto was proclaimed "generalissimo of the north" by Andres Bonifacio, as Commander of the Zone comprising the provinces of Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, and Nueva Ecija. At an engagement with the Spaniards at Majayjay in 1899, he was wounded in the thigh and taken prisoner. He died in that town on April 16, 1899.

After the outbreak of the Philippine-American War, Major General Elwell S. Otis of the American forces ordered the operations in southwestern Laguna and directed General Henry W. Lawton to take Sta. Cruz which was the center of the Filipino opposition in the province. Gen. Lawton captured Sta. Cruz on April 10, 1899, Pagsanjan on the 11th, and Loños and Paete on the 12th.

In 1905, the condemned officers who did not surrender to the American forces launched the Laguna-Cavite-Batangas insurrection. With the titles of "Defenders of the Country" and "Protectors of the People," they caused the reign of terror, devastations and ruin in the three provinces.

All of the towns in Laguna terribly suffered during the Japanese occupation, from 1942 to 1945. Later, on March 15, 1945, the American bombers raided and blasted the churches, convents, municipal buildings and residences in the province. On April 1945, Laguna was liberated by the American liberation forces with the assistance of various guerrilla units.



*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF LAGUNA

The Province of Laguna was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Laguna

*Coconut Trees*

— represent the main product of Laguna. The province is the second greatest coconut producing province in the Philippines.

*Waterfalls*

— represent the foremost tourist attraction of Laguna, the world

famous Pagsanjan Falls.

*Round Shape of Seal*

— signifies the democratic way of life and the equality by which every citizen pursues his chosen livelihood.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE

THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, a small heart-shaped island, lies between Luzon and the Visayas. It is separated on the north and east by the Province of Quezon, on the northwest by Batangas, on the west by Oriental Mindoro, and on the south by Romblon.

Marinduque, with a land area of 959.5 square kilometers, is composed of six municipalities: Boac (earlier named Biacna-Bayan), the provincial capital, established as a town in 1735; Sta. Cruz, declared as a municipality in 1790; Gasan, founded as a settlement in 1800 and established as a municipality in 1896; Mogpog (formerly a part of Boac), began as a community in 1807; Torrijos (separated from Sta. Cruz), elevated into a township in 1871 and Buenavista (formerly a portion of Gasan), established as a municipality on January 1, 1919.

The province had a population of 85,828 in 1948, 114,586 in 1960, and 144,109 in 1970. Basically, it is an agricultural island with coconut as the most important crop. Fishing and mining, however, are the lucrative occupations of the people. The home industries are basket, hat and mat weaving, and rope and *buntal* fiber making.

Originally, Marinduque was a part of Balayan or Bonbon (now Batangas) when Juan de Salcedo and Martin de Goiti colonized the region in 1581. Early in the 17th century, the island was separated from Balayan and it became a part of Mindoro, as a *corregimiento*.

Like in the other provinces of Luzon, the *revolucionarios*, after overthrowing Spanish rule, established a Revolutionary Government in Marinduque. Later, on September 30, 1900, the Filipino forces led by Colonel Maximo Abad defeated the American contingent under the command of Captain Devereux Shields at the Battle of Pulang Lupa in Torrijos.

During the American regime, on May 1, 1901, the United States-Philippine Commission passed Act No. 125 which created the Province of Marinduque, composed of the islands of Marinduque and the adjacent small islands, and established the provincial government at the Municipality of Boac, its capital. A year later, by virtue of Act No. 423, dated June 23, 1902, the US-Philippine Commission annexed the island of Mindoro, including the island of Lubang (then separated from the Province of Cavite), to the Province of Marinduque. Boac remained as the capital of the consolidated provinces. Four months after, on November 10, by virtue of Act No. 499, Marinduque was made a part of the Province of Tayabas (now Quezon). Later, on May 17, 1907, under Act No. 1649, the Commission made Marinduque as a subprovince of Tayabas. And, finally, on February 21, 1920, Act No. 2880, sponsored by then representative Ricardo Paras, separated the subprovince of Marinduque from Tayabas and re-established the former Province of Marinduque. That law was signed by American Governor General Francis Burton Harrison.

When the Japanese Imperial Forces invaded the country, the enemy landed in Laylay on July 7, 1942. Three years later, the American Liberation Forces landed in Buenavista on January 3, 1945 and liberated the province on the 10th of the same month.

Marinduque is nationally known for its culture, particularly its unique practices. Two of the popular traditions in this province are the *moriones* (from the Latin word *centurion*, meaning a "Roman Soldier")—a colorful observance by decorated participants, simulating the Roman soldiers, during the Holy Week; and the *putong* or coronation—an oral thanksgiving and prayer for long life of a celebrant or guest of honor, climaxed by placing a crown of flowers on the honoree's head.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE

The Province of Marinduque was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Marinduque

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Three Crowns</i> | — represent the “Tres Reyes” Islands.  |
| <i>Coconut Tree</i> | — the principal source of livelihood of the people.                                  |
| <i>Mountain</i>     | — stands for Mt. Malindig, an inactive volcano and the highest peak in the province. |

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>Plain Areas</i> | — rice fields, means of livelihood of the people.  |
| <i>Fishes</i>      | — represent the different species of fish that abound in the sea surrounding the province. |



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, formerly a part of the old Mindoro Province, lies on the western part of the Island of Mindoro. It is bounded on the north by the Maricaban Island, on the east by Oriental Mindoro, on the west by Mindoro Strait, and on the south by the Semirara Island.

The province has a land area of 5,879.8 square kilometers, and a population of 43,149 in 1948, 84,316 in 1960, and 144,032 in 1970. The plains in the western portion of the island are inhabited by the Tagalogs, and the interior portion by the Mangyans—of Malayan origin who live like the Negritos.

The principal products of the region are rice, coconut, sugar, corn and abaca. The inhabitants are engaged in many industries, such as cattle and poultry raising, lumbering, rubber planting, and fishing. The waters on the west coast of the island is one of the most important fishing grounds of the Philippines. The hunting ground is located along the banks of the Bugsanga River, where there are deer, wild boars and tamaraws.

Mindoro, formerly called *Mait* (from the Spanish phrase *Mina de Oro* or "gold mine"), was known to the Chinese traders before the Spaniards came. In 1570, Martin de Goiti and Juan de Salcedo explored the island.

In the early years, Mindoro was administered as a part of the Province of Bonbon, now Batangas. At the start of

the 17th century, the island was separated from Bonbon and organized into a *corregimiento*. Puerto Galera became its capital.

In 1754, Mindoro suffered heavily from the piratical raids of the Muslims. They established two strongholds in Mamburao and Balete which were abandoned by the Christians due to Muslim raids. A successful expedition to Mamburao (dispatched by Governor Simon de Anda), temporarily stopped the Muslim raids until the close of the 18th century.

During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, the Filipino revolutionary forces in the province established a government until 1901 when the American forces occupied the island.

The island of Lubang, formerly a part of Cavite, was annexed to Mindoro on June 23, 1902. Mindoro was made a part of Marinduque when the latter was organized into a regular province. Five years later, Mindoro was organized into a special province. It was made a regular province under Act No. 2964, approved on February 20, 1921.

On June 13, 1950, under Republic Act No. 305, Occidental Mindoro became a new and separate province. Under the law, the old Province of Mindoro was divided into two, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro. The municipalities of Occidental Mindoro, including its capital, Mamburao, are Abra de Ilog, Calintaan, Lubang, Magsaysay, Paluan, Rizal, Sablayan, San Jose and Sta. Cruz.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



ROSE  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

The Province of Occidental Mindoro was created under R.A. 505 on June 13, 1950.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Occidental Mindoro

#### *Three Tamaraws*

- the three political regions of the province: Lubang, Looc and Paluan. Tamaraw was made to symbolize the province because Mindoro is the only place in the Philippines where the tamaraw can be found.

#### *Five White Dots*

— the five speaking dialects of the province, namely the Visayan, Tagalog, Ilocano, Pampango and Bicolano dialects.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, formerly a part of the old Mindoro Province, is bounded on the north by the Verde Island and the Verde Island Passage, on the east by the Maestro de Campo Island and the Tablas Strait, on the south by the Semirara Island, and on the west by Occidental Mindoro.

The province has a land area of 4,364.7 square kilometers and a population of 124,556 in 1948, 228,998 in 1960, and 328,364 in 1970. It is composed of 15 municipalities: (along the coast) Bulalacao, Mansalay, Pola, Roxas, Bongabon, Gloria, Bansud, Pinamalayan, Naujan, San Teodoro, Puerto Galera and Calapan (the capital); and (inland) Baco, Victoria and Socorro. As in the other half of the island, the province is inhabited in the plains by the Tagalogs and in the interior by the Mangyans, a primitive semi-nomadic tribe—of Malayan origin, with considerable Negrito blood.

The principal products of the region are rice, copra, abaca, sugar and corn. Its industries are cattle and poultry raising (in considerable quantities), lumbering (practised extensively), rubber planting (on large-scale), and fishing (engaged lucratively). The province is rich in mineral deposits: gold, in the Baco and Bongabon Rivers; coal, at the northwest of Mount Halcon (the highest peak); slate deposits, near the headwaters of Pagbaban and the rivers on the western coast; sulphur and gypsum, at Lake Naujan and south of Calapan; hot springs, between the sea and the northwestern part of Lake Naujan; salt springs, in Bulalacao; and guano, in the mountain caves.

Mindoro was formerly called *Mait*, from the *Spanish* phrase *Mina de Oro*. It was known to the Chinese traders before the coming of the Spaniards. When Captain Juan de Salcedo and Marshall Martin de Goiti explored the region, they found Chinese junks anchored at the mouth of Baco River.

In 1572, the Augustinians opened their mission headquarters at Baco but they abandoned the site immediately after the natives revolted and imprisoned the friars who were later released. In 1578, the Franciscans, Esteban Ortiz and Juan de Porras, were assigned to Balayan (now Batangas) and Mindoro. After the Franciscans left the place, the Fathers of the Society of Jesus attended to the spiritual needs of the inhabitants. In 1673, Captain General Juan de Vargas granted authority to the Recollects to take charge of the mission in the

province. The apostolate was then under the Archdiocese of Manila.

Mindoro originally included the island of Mindoro, the island of Maestro de Campo, and the small adjacent islands. It was politically administered as a part of Bonbon (now Batangas). Early in the 17th century, the island was separated from Bonbon and organized into a *corregimiento*, with Puerto Galera as its capital.

In 1754, the Muslims, whose strongholds were in the islands of Mamburao and Balete, frequently attacked the province. Governor General Simon de Anda sent a successful expedition to the islands and momentarily stopped the raids of the Muslims until the close of the 18th century when the Spanish government effectively dealt with them. The inhabitants likewise repulsed the Muslim attacks.

In 1837, the capital of the province was transferred to Calapan.

During the Philippine Revolution, the *revolucionarios* established a government in Mindoro until the American forces occupied the island in 1901.

On June 23, 1902, the island of Lubang, formerly a part of Cavite, was annexed to Mindoro. In the same month and year, the province became a part of Marinduque. Later, in 1907, the Province of Mindoro was declared as one of those specially created in the archipelago. However, it was only on February 20, 1921, under Act No. 2964, that Mindoro was made a regular province.

Mindoro was also occupied by the Japanese Imperial Forces during World War II. Nevertheless, the guerrilla units, composed of ROTC Guerrillas and Philippine Army Guerrillas, operated in the province. The ROTC, under Commander George Rowe, maintained their headquarters at Abra de Ilog. From Mindoro, Major Calixto Gasilao and the 1st Battalion, 49th Regiment, successfully undertook dangerous missions to the neighboring region.

Finally, on June 13, 1950, Republic Act No. 205 divided the old Province of Mindoro into Occidental and Oriental Mindoro. Calapan was retained as the capital of Oriental Mindoro.



*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

The Province of Oriental Mindoro was created under R.A. 505 on June 13, 1950.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Oriental Mindoro

*Tamaraw*

— rare wild animal found only in the island of Mindoro.

*Six Dots*

— represent the original towns of the province.

*Red Color*

— stands for the bravery displayed by the inhabitants during the Spanish Revolution, Filipino-American

*Yellow Color*

*Two Stars*

War and the Japanese Occupation.

— stands for gold mine which is abundant in Oriental Mindoro and remains undeveloped.

— represent the provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro upon division of the island into two provinces.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN lies southwest of Mindoro, bounded on the south by Borneo, on the north and west by the China Sea, and on the east by the Sulu Sea.

Palawan, the second largest province in the country, has a land area of 14,896.3 square kilometers and a population of 236,635 in 1970. It is composed of 20 municipalities with Puerto Princesa as the capital.

As an agricultural province, the most important crops are coconut, rice, banana, cashew, corn and casava. The important forest products include rattan, nipa, tanbark, beeswax, bamboo and buri.

The richest fishing grounds in the Philippines are found near Palawan.

The Spaniards first established their authority on the northern portion of the province, over the islands of the Calamianes group. They organized the region into a province known as Calamianes. The southern portion which included the big islands of Paragua was then a part of the Sultanate of Borneo; as such, it was beyond Spanish authority. However, in the early part of the 18th century, the Spaniards established a garrison at Taytay, on the northern portion of Paragua. Later, they built a fort which was capable of accommodating a garrison of 700 men. Taytay then became the bastion of Spanish authority. The Muslims tried to capture the fort in 1730 and 1735, but they failed.

About the middle of the century, the Spanish government obtained from the Sultanate the cession of the southern part of Paragua in order to extend Spanish authority to the newly acquired territory. Later, they abandoned the place when a considerable number of the expeditionary forces perished from fever.

In 1818, practically all the territories which now belong to Palawan were known as the Province of Calamianes with the capital at Taytay. In 1858, Calamianes was divided into two provinces, Castilla and Asturias. The first comprised the Calamianes group and the adjacent islands, and the northern portion of Paragua. Its capital was Taytay. Asturias included

the rest of Paragua together with the island of Balabac, which early that year was made into a politico-military province with the name of Principe Alfonso. Its capital was Puerto Princesa. Later, during the term of Governor and Captain General Rafael de Izquierdo, the island of Paragua was organized into a separate politico-military province with Puerto Princesa as the capital. At the end of the Spanish rule, the Province of Palawan was divided into three politico-military districts—Calamianes, Paragua and Balabac.


During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, a great number of the exiles in Palawan, because of alleged complicity with the Katipunan, were sent to Balabac in the island of the same name.

After the Filipino-American War, a civil government was established by the Americans on June 23, 1902. The province was called Paragua. It included practically the former province of Castilla—the Calamianes group, the adjacent islands, and a part of Paragua Island—with the capital at Cuyo.

In 1905, Capt. John Elmick became the governor of Paragua. The same year, pursuant to Act No. 1363 of the Philippine Commission, the name of the province was changed to Palawan and the capital was transferred from Cuyo to Puerto Princesa.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Palawan on May 18, 1942. They established garrisons in Coron, Puerto Princesa and Iwahig. Consequently, guerrilla units were formed in three sectors led by Capt. Carlos Amores in Calamianes, by Higinio Mendoza, Sr., in the mainland, and by Emilio Tumbaga in Brooke's Point. During the Japanese occupation, a civil government headed by Governor Gaudencio E. Abordo was established in the hinterlands.

The province has historical landmarks and tourist spots, such as the forts in Cuyo, Culion, San Juan Bautista, and Labo; the Iwahig Penal Colony in Iwahig and Puerto Princesa; the Tabon Caves and Tarampitao in Quezon Island; the Ursula Island in Brooke's Point; the Ulugan Bay in Puerto Princesa; the Paly Island in Taytay; the Malampaya Sound and the cliffs in El Nido; and the Culion Leper Colony in Busuanga.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

The Province of Palawan was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Palawan

<i>Animals</i>	— the mouse-deer of <b>pilandok</b> and the Palawan peacock which can be found only in the province.
<i>River</i>	— the famous underground river at St. Paul's Bay.
<i>Fishing</i>	— the abundance of fish in the surrounding Sulu and China Seas.
<i>Green Mountain</i>	— vast wealth of timber, metallic and non-metallic mines, which also house archeological relics of the stone age.



PALAWAN CHERRY  
*Provincial Flower*



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON

QUEZON, formerly called Tayabas, is the longest and the third largest province in the entire Archipelago. Situated along the eastern Pacific seacoast, its elongated territory stretches from Isabela on the north to Camarines Norte on the south. Inland, the province is bounded by Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Batangas on the west, and by Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur on the southwest.

The province has jurisdiction over the small islands near its coast, the most important of which are Polillo, Patnanongan and Alabat. Topographically, the province is characterized by rugged terrain, with the Sierra Madre mountain traversing lengthwise in the entire region. It has a port of entry at Siain (Plaridel) and a subport of entry in Mauban.

Quezon has a land area of 11,946.2 square kilometers and a population of 653,426 in 1960 and 983,342 in 1970. It consists of 47 municipalities, a municipal district (Dinalongan), and a city (Lucena). The climate is suitable to the principal crops of rice, corn, sugar, abaca, cacao, and coconut. As the biggest coconut producer in the country, the major export of the province is copra. Some of its large-scale industries are fishing, logging and mining, particularly in the Bondoc Peninsula. The weaving of *buntal* hats is a famous home industry in Lucena City and the municipalities of Mauban and Tayabas.

The province was first explored in 1571 by Captain Juan de Salcedo when he went to Paracale. Later, when Salcedo explored the northern coast of Luzon, he visited Casiguran, Baler and Infanta.

Originally, Quezon was divided among the provinces of Batangas, Laguna and Nueva Ecija. In 1585, the central and southern portions of the region were under the jurisdiction of Bonbon or Balayan (now Batangas). In 1818, the northern part of the territory (Baler, Casiguran, Infanta and Polillo Island) was made a part of Nueva Ecija.

Finally, in 1591, the province was created and called Kalilaya, named after the capital town of Kalilaya (now the Municipality of Unisan). About the middle of 18th century, the capital was transferred to the town of Tayabas, from which the name of the province was derived.

Like the other provinces of Luzon, Tayabas was raided by the Muslims. They attacked Casiguran, Palanan and Baler in

1798 and also the coastal towns of Bondoc Peninsula.

In 1841, the *Confradia de San Jose*, led by Apolinario de la Cruz, advocated and fought for racial and religious reforms. The rebellion of "Hermano Pule," as he was called, spread to the neighboring towns of Laguna and Batangas. The Spaniards later suppressed the revolt and De la Cruz was publicly executed on November 4 of the same year.

Tayabas was among the first provinces to join the Philippine Revolution. On August 15, 1898, General Miguel Malvar controlled the province under the Revolutionary Government.

After the Filipino-American War, the Americans established a civil government in Tayabas on March 12, 1901, with Lucena as its capital.

On June 12, 1902, the district of Principe, under the jurisdiction of Laguna and the district of Infanta and the island of Polillo, dependencies of Nueva Ecija, were annexed to Tayabas. On November 10, 1902, Act No. 499 made Marinduque a part of Tayabas. Later, on May 17, 1907, under Act No. 1649, the Philippine Commission created Marinduque as a sub-province of Tayabas. And on November 21, 1920, under Act No. 2880, Marinduque was separated from Tayabas and created as an independent province.

At the outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941, the 16th Division of the Japanese Imperial Forces entered Lamon Bay on December 24. The Imperial Forces then made three separate and simultaneous landings: the Hiro Detachment in Mauban; the Mura Detachment near Siain, and the remainder of the division, one and a half miles east of Atimonan. In Mauban and Atimonan, except in Siain, the enemy were met with heavy artillery fire from the elements of the Philippine Army, South Luzon Forces, commanded by Brigadier General Fidel Segundo. However, the Japanese forces pushed the Filipino forces from Mauban to Sampaloc where the gallant defenders were overran by the superior invaders.

On September 7, 1946, President Manuel A. Roxas, by virtue of Republic Act No. 14, renamed Tayabas to Quezon, in honor of Manuel L. Quezon, the first president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines who hailed from the town of Baler. Lucena City was retained as the capital of the province.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF QUEZON

The Province of Quezon was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Quezon

<i>Figure</i>	—Manuel L. Quezon, first president of the Philippine Commonwealth.	<i>Golden Portion</i>	—symbolizes the natural resources and wealth of the province.
<i>Three Stars</i>	—symbol of the three geographical divisions of the country—Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.	<i>Red Portion</i>	—stands for the bravery of its people.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL

THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, bounded by the Province of Bulacan on the north, the Province of Quezon on the east, the Laguna Bay and the Province of Cavite on the south, and Manila Bay on the west, was created out of the Spanish military district of Morong and from a part of the Province of Manila. It has a horizontal length of about 70 kilometers from east to west and a vertical width of 84 kilometers from north to south.

The Province, with a land area of 1,859.6 square kilometers, consists of 26 municipalities, with Pasig as the capital. It had a population of 2,844,689 in 1970.

The terrain is mostly low and flat on the western portion, and with rolling hills and a few rugged ridges on the eastern sector. At the foot of these elevations are valleys, the largest of which is Marikina Valley, extending from Pasig to Montalban. The Pasig and Marikina Rivers, both emptying into the Manila Bay, respectively drain the Laguna Bay and the Marikina Valley. The Montalban Dam, one of the chief sources of water in the Greater Manila area, is located in the province.

Rizal is one of the most industrially developed provinces in the country. Shoemaking, of which Marikina is the Philippine shoe center, is one of its largest industries, aside from basic metal production, pharmaceutical, cosmetics and chemical manufacturing, food processing, textile weaving, salt making, and *bangus* and duck raising.

After the fall of Manila in 1571, Captain Juan de Salcedo proceeded along the Pasig River and overran Cainta and Taytay which were already thriving settlements.

Some of the towns founded by the Spaniards were Pasig and San Mateo (1572), Parañaque (1575), Antipolo (1578), Taytay (1595), Tanay (1606), Binangonan (1621), Cainta

(1689), Marikina (1690), Las Piñas (1762), Pateros (1815) and Navotas (1859).

In 1639, when the Chinese revolted against the Spanish authorities, many lives were lost in the province. More than a century later, in 1762, the British forces under the command of Captain Thomas Backhouse invaded Pasig, and subsequently "captured Cainta and Taytay which he garrisoned with Sepoys."

On August 23, 1896, the first "Cry" at Pugadlawin (in the Municipality of Caloocan, then under the jurisdiction of Rizal Province) by Andres Bonifacio and the *Katipuneros* started the Philippine Revolution against Spain. Seven days later, a bloody battle was fought between the Spaniards and the Filipinos at Pinaglabanan, San Juan. Several encounters also occurred in Pateros, San Pedro and Makati. The incident on February 4, 1899, which sparked the Philippine-American War, happened at San Juan Bridge in San Juan.

A civil government was established in Rizal when the province was created on June 11, 1901. Ambrosio Flores became the first appointive governor of the province.

During the Japanese occupation, the Marking's Guerrillas under Marcos Agustin and the ROTC Hunters headed by Eleuterio Adevosos operated in the province.

Among the prominent sons of Rizal are Juan M. Sumulong, the "Brains of the Opposition" in the government; and Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., the "Grand Old Man of Rizal."

Some of the tourist spots in Rizal are Antipolo, visited annually by pilgrims to venerate the Virgin of Peace and Safe Voyage; Talim Island, at the middle of Laguna Bay; and the Bamboo Organ in Las Piñas, the only one of its kind in the world.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF RIZAL

The Province of Rizal was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Rizal



BAGAWAK  
*Provincial Flower*

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dr. Jose Rizal</i>      | — Philippine national hero after whom the province was named.  |
| <i>Monument</i>            | — represents the historical spot where revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio made the First Cry of Balintawak. |
| <i>Upper Right Portion</i> | — represents commerce and industry of the province.  |
| <i>Woman at Harvest</i>    | — portrays agriculture as the chief industry of the province.  |
| <i>Nymph</i>               | — symbol of the famous “Nymph of Pasig”, traditional legend.   |



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON comprises the islands of Tablas, Sibuyan, Romblon, Banton, Simara, Carabao, Alad, Logbon, Cobrador, and a number of scattered islets. It is bounded by Marinduque in the north, Panay in the south, Mindoro in the west, and Masbate in the east.

Loarca mentioned "Lomlon" or "Doblon" in his writings after he visited the place in 1582. The Recollects, in 1635, already founded Christian natives and churches in Banton, Romblon and Cajidiocan.

Like many regions in the country, Romblon suffered from the frequent devastating raids of the Muslims and the attack of the Dutch in 1646. In order to protect its people from further depredations, the Recollect Fathers built a fort in Romblon in 1650 and another in Banton Island.

The province underwent various political reorganizations in the nineteenth century. In 1818, Romblon was incorporated with the province of Capiz. Then in 1853, the islands were reorganized into a *politico-military comandancia* administered from Capiz.

In 1898, Romblon was under the rule of "an army officer with the rank of captain." The town of Romblon was its capital and the other municipalities were Azagra, Badajoz (now San Agustin), Banton (named Jones from 1916 to 1929), Cajidiocan, Corcuera, Looc, Magallanes (now Magdiwang), Odiongan, Despujols (now San Andres), and Santa Fe. For some-time, during the second phase of the Philippine revolution, the province, as a part of Capiz, was under the control of General Mariano Riego de Dios, head of the Filipino Revolutionary Forces in the Visayas during the Philippine-American War.

Upon the restoration of peace and order in the province, a civil government was established by the Americans on March 16, 1901.

Romblon was created as a regular province in 1901; but due to insufficient income, it became a sub-province of Capiz in 1907 until December 7, 1917, when Act No. 2724 reestablished the former province of Romblon. Under Commonwealth Act No. 581, enacted without executive approval on June 8,

1940, the province was reorganized with four municipalities; namely, Tablas, embracing Odiongan, Looc, Badajoz, Santa Fe and Despujols; Romblon comprising Logbon, Cobrador, Alad and Mehali; Banton, composing Simara and Maestro de Campo; and Sibuyan, with the towns of Cajidiocan, Magdiwang and San Fernando.

The Japanese Imperial Forces maintained a garrison in Romblon during World War II, from 1942 until the Naval Battle of Sibuyan on October 25, 1945.

On October 1, 1946, Commonwealth Act No. 581 abolished the existing municipal governments and the province of Romblon and created instead four special municipalities. A year after, on January 1, 1947, Romblon regained her provincial status through the passage of Republic Act No. 38, which was sponsored by Congressman Modesto Formilleza. The law not only repealed C.A. 581 but also restored the regular provincial government and the municipalities of Romblon, and created the municipality of Santa Fe.

The outstanding sons of Romblon are: Leonardo Festin, the first assemblyman of the province who represented Capiz from 1916 to 1919 and the district of Romblon from 1919 to 1935; Florencio Moreno, Secretary of Public Works and Communications in 1957; Dr. Jose Moreno, who sponsored the foundation of the Geriatrics Center of the Philippines; Congressman Esteban Madrona, the last congressman of Romblon before the proclamation of Martial Law in 1972; and Dr. Gabriel F. Fabella, an educator, lawyer, politician, and former professor of history in the University of the Philippines. He helped in the transfer of the Independence Day celebration from July 4th to June 12 of every year, as provided for under R.A. No. 4166, dated August 4, 1964.

Romblon is more identified with marble than any other province in the Philippines. In fact, all the island comprising the province have marble. The marble quarries in these islands are the sources of raw marble for the hundreds of marble sculptors and manufacturers. There are, however, historical and tourist landmarks, such as the ruins of Spanish forts, the beautiful beach in Romblon, Romblon, and the magnificent waterfalls in San Andres and Odiongan.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

The Province of Romblon was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

Meaning of the Official Seal of Romblon

*Map* — represents the map of the islands comprising Romblon.

*White Color of Map* — symbol for marble quarries found in all the islands of Romblon and for which it was known.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY

THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY is located between the provinces of Camarines Sur on the north and Sorsogon on the south. It is bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean, on the northeast by the Lagonoy Gulf, and on the west and southwest by the Burias Pass. The islands in the north under the jurisdiction of the province are Rapu-rapu, Batan, Cacraray and San Miguel.

Albay has a land area of 2,552.6 square kilometers, consisting of 14 towns, and a population of 673,981 in 1970. The important products of the people are hemp, coconut, sugar cane, pineapple, vegetables and rice.

The mountains of the province are Mayon, Masarana and Malinao in the northeast, and Catbaruan in the west. Its forests are sources of timber, rattan, pili nuts and gum elemi. There are also vast grasslands for pasturing horses, cattle, carabaos, goats and sheep.

In 1569, Luis Enriquez de Guzman led an expedition from Panay to the islands of Masbate and Ticao, and to the region named Ibalon. The Augustinian missionary, Father Alonzo Jimenez, christianized the first inhabitants of Ibalon, Camarines and Burias. He learned the Bicol dialect and composed a Bicol catechism.

In July 1573, Juan de Salcedo, with 120 soldiers, explored Ibalon and founded the town of Santiago de Libong. Jose Maria Peñaranda, a military engineer, was made *coregidor* of the province on May 14, 1834. He constructed public buildings and built roads and bridges.

A decree was issued by Governor and Captain General Narciso de Claveria in 1846, separating Masbate, Ticao and Burias from Albay to form the *comandancia* of Masbate. Albay was then divided into four districts: Iraya, Cordillera or Tabaco, Sorsogon and Catanduanes.

Glicerio Delgado, a condemned "insurrecto," started the revolutionary activities in the province. With headquarters in the mountain of Guinobatan, he joined the revolutionary government of Albay as lieutenant of the Infantry.

A unit of the Philippine Militia was then organized by the Spanish military authorities. Mariano Riosa was appointed

major of the Tabaco Zone which comprised all the towns along the seacoast from Albay to Tiwi, while Anacleto Solano was also appointed as major for the Iraya Zone which was made up of the towns from Daraga to Libon. Each town was organized into sections of fifty men under the command of a lieutenant.

On September 22, 1898, the provisional revolutionary government of Albay was formed with Anacleto Solano as the provisional president. Major General Vito Belarmino, appointed military commander, reorganized the Filipino Army in the province.

During the Filipino-American War, Brigadier General William Kobbe headed the expedition that landed on the ports of Sorsogon, Bulan and Donsol. From there, the Americans marched to Legazpi and captured the place.

Although a civil government was established in Albay on April 26, 1901, Colonel Harry H. Bandholtz, Commanding Officer of the Constabulary in the Bicol region, attested that Simeon Ola, with a thousand men, continued to defy American authority after the capture of Belarmino in 1901. Ola was later captured with about six hundred men.

During the Second World War, the Kimura Detachment of the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Legazpi on December 12, 1941. The region was defended only by the Philippine Constabulary unit under Major Francisco Sandico. By December 19, the Bicol Peninsula up to Sipocot, Camarines Sur, with patrols towards Ragay Gulf and Daet, was already under the enemy.

Albay, a progressive province, with the capital city of Legazpi, has a large reservoir of steam deposits in Tiwi, according to geothermal expert G. W. Gridley of New Zealand. On August 14, 1970, Presidential Proclamation No. 739 authorized the National Power Corporation to exploit and develop the Tiwi power plant project.

Mayon Volcano, a major tourist attraction of the province, is known for its symmetrical, almost perfect cone that rises over 7,500 feet above sea level. It erupted 15 times, with the catastrophe on February 1, 1814 as the most destructive. Its lava buried the town and church of Cagsawa.



*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ALBAY

The Province of Albay was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Albay

*Bird or Kalaw*

— a high-flying bird native to Albay, which depicts the hopes and aspirations of the people.

*Volcano*

— Mayon Volcano in the background, emitting smoke as a sign of life, vibrant existence in the province; streak of light on the

shoulder of Mayon signifies the artistry of the people, noted for their various talents in the arts and other creative pursuits.

*Ricefields*

— depict the agricultural economy of the province.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE

THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE occupies the northwestern portion of the Bicol Peninsula. Along the coastlines, the province faces the Basiad Bay on the west, the Pacific Ocean on the north, and the San Miguel Bay on the east. Inland, it is bounded by the Province of Quezon on the southwest and Camarines Sur on the south. The islands under the jurisdiction of the province are located on the northeastern coast.

Although Camarines Norte is generally mountainous, coconut and abaca are two of its most important agricultural products. The Bacacay and Colase mountains are thickly forested and suitable for logging. The province has abundant reserves of gold, iron, copper, uranium, lead and zinc. With numerous indentations along the coast, a thriving fishing industry has gained importance among the seacoast towns. Its most important rivers are the Basigon and Labo.

The province, with Daet as the capital, is composed of 12 towns. It has a land area of 2,112.5 square kilometers and a population of 262,012 in 1970.

In 1571, Governor General Miguel Lopez de Legazpi sent Captain Juan de Salcedo to locate the rich gold mines in Paracale. Salcedo visited the mines in Mambulao and Paracale and found them "to be excellent, very rich and more than thirty or forty *estados* in depth."

Originally, Camarines was one political unit only. In 1829, the province was divided into two, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur. Later, in 1854, the two provinces were again united to form the Province of Ambos Camarines. However, in 1857, they were again separated, and in 1893, again reunited.

On September 16, 1896, during the Philippine Revolution, many of its Katipunan leaders and sympathizers were arrested and imprisoned. Two year later, on September 12, 1898, General Vicente Lukban took Daet from the Spaniards and he subse-

quently reorganized and established a revolutionary government in the province.

After two years, the American forces came and occupied the Bicol region in January 1900. On April 27, 1901, a civil government under the Philippine Commission was established in Ambos Camarines.

The Philippine Legislature passed an Act in March 1919, authorizing the Governor General to divide the province into Norte and Sur. The North consists of the towns of Capalonga, Mambulao, Paracale, Indan, Labo, San Vicente, Talisay, Daet, Basud, and the islands along the coast.

During World War II, on December 12, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Forces landed in Legazpi, Albay. Six days later, on the 18th, Camarines Norte Governor Wenceslao Q. Vinzons organized guerrilla units and operated against the enemy. However, on July 8, 1942, Vinzons was captured and later executed by the Japanese forces.

When the American Liberation Forces came, General Douglas MacArthur, on February 5, 1945, issued an instruction to the Sixth Army to occupy the Bicol Peninsula. With the assistance of the Filipino guerrillas, the region was finally liberated.

Among the prominent sons of Camarines Norte were Jose Maria Panganiban, a brilliant propagandist during Rizal's time; General Vicente Lukban, a patriot and revolutionary leader; and Wenceslao Q. Vinzons, one of the youngest delegates to the 1934 Constitutional Convention and a World War II hero.

The tourist attractions in the province are the Shrine of the Black Nazarene in Capalonga, the Bicol National Park in Daet and Basud, the Calaguas Islands, and the San Miguel and Lamon Bays.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE

The Province of Camarines Norte was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Camarines Norte

<i>Shield with a Cross</i>	— stands for Christianity's shield of moral protection over the province.	<i>Two Plain Circles</i>	— represent coconuts, major peso-earning product of the province.
<i>Monument</i>	— represents the historical Rizal's monument in the province.	<i>Yellow Gold Background</i>	— tells of the province's high ideals, imaginative drive and search for self-fulfillment.
<i>Three Circles with Sickles</i>	— stand for the three mining towns of Jose Panganiban, Paracale and Capalonga.	<i>Violet Cross</i>	— tells of the Norteños creative ambition for self-expression endless pursuit for improvement.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR

CAMARINES SUR, situated at the southeastern portion of Luzon, is bounded on the north by the Pacific Ocean, on the east by the Maqueda Channel, on the south by the Province of Albay, on the west by the Ragay Gulf, and on the northwest by the provinces of Camarines Norte and Quezon.

With a land area of 5,266.8 square kilometers, Camarines Sur has 34 municipalities and two cities. In 1970, it had a population of 947,367 (composed of Bicolanos, Tagalogs, Visayans and Ilocanos).

Noted for its rich volcanic soil, the province produces abaca, rice and coconut. Fishing is an important activity of its coastal towns. The smallest fish (*tabios*) in the world is found in Lake Buhi. Pili trees, known for its nuts, grow abundantly in Camarines Sur. The capital town of Pili is named after the fruit.

Camarines Sur derived its name from *camarin*, the Spanish word for "rice granary" or "warehouse."

In 1569, Luis Enriquez de Guzman, with Augustinian friar Alonzo Jimenez, reached the present town of Camalig, then a thriving village or *rancheria*. The natives lived in houses or thatched sheds called *kamalig*, "rice granary" in the native tongue.

Andres de Ibarra, in search for provisions, followed the route taken by De Guzman and reached Kalilingo and Bua (the present towns of Bato and Nabua) in 1570.

In 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi dispatched Juan de Salcedo to explore the area as far as Paracale. A year after, Salcedo cruised the Bicol River and went as far as Bato Lake.

Later, a Spanish garrison under Captain Pedro de Chaves was set up in Naga, a prosperous native *rancheria*. In 1575, De Guzman founded the City of Nueva Caceres after the birth-

place of Governor General Francisco de Sande in Caceres, Spain.

Camarines was divided into Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur in 1829. The two were united as *Ambos Camarines* in 1854, and again separated in 1857. The North and the South were again united in 1893.

The Philippine Revolution, started in Ambos Camarines when Elias Angeles and Felix Plazo, Filipino corporals in the Spanish Army, sided with the revolutionists and fought the local Spanish forces on September 17, 1898. Governor Vicente Zaidin capitulated to the revolutionists on the following day. With the arrival of General Vicente Lukban, the revolutionary government in the Bicol region was established.

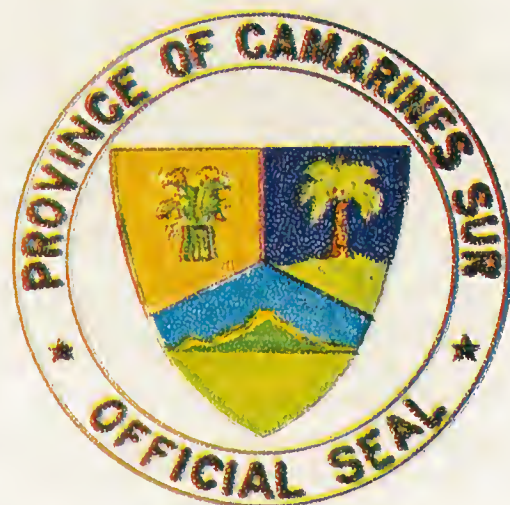
The American forces occupied the Bicol Peninsula in January 1900. In March of the same year, General John M. Bell was made the military governor of southeastern Luzon. Civil government was finally established in Ambos Camarines in April 1901.

In March 1919; the Philippine Legislature passed an Act authorizing the Governor General to divide the province into Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur.

At the outbreak of World War II, guerrilla units were organized by Wenceslao Q. Vinzons. They waged underground operations against the Japanese troops stationed in Camarines Sur. After the capture of Vinzons on July 8, 1942, the guerrilla movement was carried on by Lieutenant Francisco Boayes. In April 1945, Camarines Sur was finally liberated from the Japanese invaders.

Among the great sons of Camarines Sur were W. Q. Vinzons, Bishop Jorge Barlin, first Filipino Catholic bishop; Elias Angeles and Felix Plazo, leaders in Naga during the Philippine Revolution; and the Bicol martyrs, led by Manuel and Domingo Abella, who died for freedom against Spanish sovereignty.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR

The Province of Camarines Sur was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Camarines Sur

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Upper Left Portion</i>  | — symbolizes abaca industry, one of the main industries of the province.          |
| <i>Upper Right Portion</i> | — symbol for banana industry, another source of livelihood of its people.         |
| <i>Lower Portion</i>       | — depicts mountain ranges which suggest the topographical layout of the province. |



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES

THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES, opposite the Bicol region, is bounded by the Maqueda Channel on the west, the Pacific Ocean on the north and east, and the Lagonoy Gulf and Cabugao Bay on the south.

The island, with a land area of 1,511.5 square kilometers and a population of 162,100 in 1970, is composed of 11 towns, with Virac as the capital. Its fertile soil was made richer by the volcanic ashes from the distant Mayon Volcano.

Catanduanes is frequently visited by storms. However, the vessels that visit its ports are provided with safe anchorage by the bays and coves of Kalapalan, Gigmoto, Soboc and Cabugao.

The important industries of the province are logging, fishing, and cattle raising. In Pandan, *buri* hats and mats, roof shingles, and alcohol are manufactured for local consumption.

The province, formerly known as "*Catanduan*," "*Catandognan*," and finally, "*Catanduanes*," derived its name from the "*tando*" trees which then abound in the island.

In 1573, Juan de Salcedo explored Catanduanes. Later, on January 6, 1576, Father Diego de Herrera with nine Augustinians sailed from Acapulco to the Philippines aboard the galleon, *Espiritu Santo*. Although it was reported that the galleon was shipwrecked near the coast of Catanduanes in April 1576, the others claimed that the disaster was caused by bad weather and all the crew members perished. Some said that the survivors were either killed by the natives or made servants of a certain *datu* of the island.

Catanduanes was once a part of Ybalon, now Albay. The ecclesiastical mission in the province was controlled from Nueva Caceres. However, in 1582, it was allotted to four *encomenderos*. In 1663, Fr. Francisco Colin, S.J., described the in-

habitants as noted shipbuilders, without using nails or futtock timbers.

In 1755, the Muslims overran the island, defeated the *alcalde mayor*, and pillaged and burned the towns, including important ecclesiastical and municipal records.

During the Philippine Revolution, the Spaniards left Catanduanes on the motorboat, *Josefa*, on September 18, 1898, before the arrival of the first Philippine revolutionary troops under Major Estanislao Legazpi.

When the Philippine-American War broke out, Brigadier General William A. Kobbé occupied Virac on January 24, 1900.

The island was governed by the Japanese Imperial Forces after they occupied Legazpi in 1941. After the liberation of the Bicol region in 1945, including Catanduanes, the United States Armed Forces maintained a military base in Panay Island.

On September 26, 1945, Commonwealth Act No. 687 created Catanduanes (a subprovince of Albay) as a separate and independent province. Under Republic Act No. 159, dated June 20, 1947, the former municipality of Caramoran was recreated out of the Municipality of Pandan; and under R.A. No. 491, dated June 12, 1950, the Municipality of Bagamanoc was also created.

In the town of Bato, Msgr. Teotimo C. Pacis, Bishop of Legazpi, declared the Holy Cross of Batalay as a Diocesan Shrine on April 1, 1973. The cross was said to be the one placed by Geronimo Galvez at the burial site of Fr. Herrera in 1576.

The tourist spots of Catanduanes are the Balombong Falls and Binawahan Falls in Bato, and the beaches of Palta, Virac, Cabcab, and Calolbon.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES

The Province of Catanduanes was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Catanduanes

#### *Forest Resources*

—connote that Catanduanes has plenty of forests being utilized for lumber industry.

#### *Water Resources*

—means that the Province has plenty of waterfalls and navigable rivers for agricultural development and for generating

electricity.

#### *Mineral Resources*

—signify that the province is also rich in minerals like coal, copper, gold, phosphate, manganese ore, black sand, limestone, and silica which is used for cement manufacture, and clay which is suitable for cottage industry.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE

MASBATE PROVINCE, composed of one wedge-shaped mainland (Masbate), two major islands (Ticao and Burias), and fourteen small islands, is bounded on the north by the Bicol region, on the south by the Visayan Sea, on the west by the Sibuyan Sea and on the east by the Burias Pass, Ticao Pass and Samar Sea.

The province has a land area of 4,047.7 square kilometers and a population of 211,113 in 1948, 335,971 in 1960, and 492,908 in 1970.

Because of its geographical location, the province became a "melting pot" of dialects and culture. The people of the town of Masbate speak the native Masbateño with a mixture of Bicolano; the natives in Cataiñgan, Palanas and Dimasalang use Samar-Visayan; the residents from Limbuan (now Pio V. Corpuz) to the southern part of Cataiñgan speak Cebu and Bohol Visayan; and the inhabitants of Placer and along the western coast of Mandaon converse in Ilongo or Capiceño.

In 1569, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi sent the first exploratory expedition, captained by Luis Enriquez de Guzman with Fray Alonso Jimenez, to the islands of Masbate, Ticao and Burias. In 1570, the Spaniards collected tributes from the natives of these islands. By 1750, there were eight mission stations of the Recollects in Masbate. In 1837, many settlers were attracted to the island by the news of the abundance of gold in the town of Aroroy.

The island of Masbate, like Sorsogon proper, was originally a part of Albay. In 1846, it was separated from Albay and was made a *comandancia politico-militar*, including Ticao. Guium was declared capital but because of its inaccessibility from Burias, Ticao, and the eastern part of Masbate, the capital was moved to Palanog, near the mouth of the Lumbang

River. The place was likewise found inadequate for commercial, industrial and political purposes; hence, Mobo was chosen, but it was also found insufficient. Finally, the capital was transferred from Mobo to the town of Masbate.

The Philippine Revolution reached Masbate through Pedro Kipte. However, General Lucban established the local government and left Vicente Trivinio of Boac, Marinduque, in charge of Masbate until the government was turned over to the United States forces in 1900. On March 18, 1901, when the Americans established the civil government, Masbate was organized as a province through Act No. 105. Later, on November 23, 1905, under Act No. 1413, Masbate was annexed to Sorsogon. The act took effect on January 1, 1906.

On December 15, 1920, the Philippine Legislature, through Act No. 2934, made Masbate a province independent of Sorsogon.

On January 2, 1942, the Japanese soldiers landed at San Fernando. The liberation of Masbate from the Japanese forces was effected by the Masbate Regiment (Philippine Guerrilla Forces) from March to April 1945.

Although the main livelihood is agriculture, with copra as the leading product followed by corn, rice, and tobacco, the people are also engaged in cattle-raising, fishing and lumber industries. The mineral resources found in the province are gold, manganese and limestone.

Masbate has 21 municipalities, namely: Masbate, Aroroy, Balano, Balud, Batuan, Cataiñgan, Cawayan, Claveria, Dimasalang, Esperanza, Mandaon, Milagros, Mobo, Monreal, Palanas, Pio V. Corpuz, Placer, San Fernando, San Jacinto, San Pascual and Uson.



## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE

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*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF MASBATE

The Province of Masbate was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Masbate

*Cattle and  
Coconut Trees*

— represents the two main industries of the province.

*Mountain Range*

— connotes its use as pasture land and the vast wealth of mineral deposits underneath; also describes the topographical layout of the province.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON

SORSOGON, at the southeastern part of the Bicol Peninsula, is bounded on the north by the Province of Albay, on the east and northeast by the Pacific Ocean, on the south by the San Bernardino Strait, and on the west and northwest by the Ticao and Burias Passes. The province has an irregular coastline. There are good harbors in Bulan, Magallanes, and along the shores of Sorsogon Bay.

Sorsogon, with an area of 2,141.4 square kilometers and a population of 426,935 in 1970, consists of 16 towns (with Sorsogon as the capital).

In 1569, Captain Luis Enriquez de Guzman, and Fathers Alonso Jimenez and Juan Orta celebrated the first mass at Otavi (site of the old town of Bulan). In 1570, a chapel was built along the Gingara River in Magallanes. The missionaries reached the town of Pilar where the Abuca-Catamlangan mission was established. Among the early towns founded in the province were Casiguran in 1600, and Bulusan in 1601.

Because of the urgent need for ships during the galleon trade, shipbuilding was developed as an important industry in the province. In 1669, Fr. Pedro de Espellargas invented the abaca stripping knife which revolutionized fiber extraction and promoted rope-making or the cordage industry.

During the Muslim raids on the coastal towns of Sorsogon in 1737, 1740, 1749 and 1781, Captain Pedro de Gastambide built a fort at Sirangan. Several watchtowers were also constructed at Gubat, Bacon, Bulusan, Sta. Magdalena and Matnog.

On October 17, 1894, Sorsogon was separated as a province from Albay. Juan de la Guardia became the first governor, succeeded by Guillermo Montes, Saliendo Salazar and Leandro Villamil.

The Spaniards abandoned Sorsogon during the Philippine Revolution of 1896. For sometime, the provincial government was administered by Father Jorge Barlin, Vicar Forane in Sorsogon, who later turned over the province to the revolutionary forces.

On January 20, 1900, the American forces under General William Kobbe occupied Sorsogon and set up a provisional military government. The resistance movement against the Americans ended when Emeterio Funes, head of the local revolutionary forces, was captured. He later took the oath of allegiance to the United States.

A civil government was established in Sorsogon on April 30, 1901. Bernardino Monreal was the first governor of the province.

During World War II, after the Japanese occupied Sorsogon in 1942, Major Licerio Lapuz and Salvador Escudero organized guerrilla units which joined forces with the American Liberation Forces in the liberation of Sorsogon on April 29, 1945.

The province is rich in prehistoric culture. The archaeological excavations conducted by Robert Fox in 1959 unearthed stone tools and burial jars at the *hacienda* of Juan Escuetura in Bato. Golden crowns, believed to exist from 91 B.C. to 79 A.D., were also found in Bulan and Juban.

Sorsogon is known for its historic and panoramic places, such as the century-old towers or *baluartes* in Sta. Magdalena, Bacon, Matnog, Casiguran and Bulusan; the eyecatching waterfalls in Guinlajon; the summer resorts along Lake Bulusan; the *Tulong-Gapo* in Bacon; the Bato Limestone in Bato; and the Irosin Church in Irosin.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF SORSOGON

The Province of Sorsogon was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Sorsogon

<i>Map Shape</i>	— represents the map of Sorsogon Province.
<i>Coconut Trees</i>	— symbol for its principal industry.
<i>Blue Waves</i>	— symbolize the body of water surrounding the province.
<i>Mountain Range</i>	— depicts the topographical layout of the province.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN

THE HISTORY of the Province of Aklan is never complete without mentioning Datu Bendahara Kalantiaw. In Batan, a street has been called Kalantiaw and a barrio as "Mabutiao" (Mambukiao), the former name of the Datu. A customary gathering of elders, the "*ponu-an*" is also being practised in the barrios of the province. The Aklanon's unique way of speaking could even be traced to a congenital defect of an old datu's manner which everyone imitated.

Aklan, with a land area of 1,817.9 square kilometers, is located at the northwestern part of Panay Island. It is bounded on the north by the Sibuyan Sea, on the south and southeast by Capiz, and on the west by the northern tip of Antique. It consists of low mountain ranges and wide plains. There are two big rivers, the Aklan and Ibajay Rivers, which drain the province and cut across 17 towns.

Composed of 17 municipalities, the province had a population of 263,358 in 1970.

Rice, coconut, banana, and abaca are its most important agricultural crops. Sea products also abound in commercial quantities. Natural deposits of clay, limestone and sand are found in the towns of Buracay, Buruanga, Banga and Batan. These raw materials are processed into finished products, such as pots, glass, buttons, fertilizers, etc.

In 1894, Francisco del Castillo and Candido Iban joined the Katipunan and donated a secondhand printing press for the printing of the *Kartilya* and the *Kalayaan*. Later, early in 1896, Del Castillo and Iban organized the Panay Chapters of the Katipunan in the towns of Ochando, Kawayan, Tambok and Lagatik (the old municipality of Batang). Their revolutionary activities were carried on the other towns of Jimeno, Balete, Banga, Kalibo, Molino, Lezo and Ibajau. Consequently, Del Castillo became the General of the Katipunan Chapter in Aklan.

On March 19, 1897, Colonel Moret, Spanish Commander of the Visayas, landed in Dumaguít aboard a Spanish gunboat. He proclaimed amnesty for those who surrendered. Four days after, on the 23rd, the prisoners called "Nineteen Martyrs of Aklan" were tortured and killed. Preparations for reinforce-

ment were then launched by Esteban Contreras and Pascual Barsana in Pontevedra. They were, however, pacified by a *Comite de Pacificacion* led by Professor Simeon Mobo Reyes, Natalio Acevedo, Vicente Laserna, Magdaleno Concepcion, Segundo Martelino, Gregorio Pastrana and Reverend Francisco Jayme, the parish priest of Kalibo. The *Comite* also advised the Spaniards to evacuate the towns in Aklan Valley to prevent further bloodshed.

With a culture of their own, distinct from the others, the Aklanons agitated for their separation from Capiz. This desire to become independent dated back in 1901, when a Memorial advocating the separation of Aklan from Capiz was presented to the Second Philippine Commission. Several bills were later filed in the Philippine Legislature in 1928 and 1934. During the term of President Ramon Magsaysay, Congressman Godofredo Ramos of the 3rd District of Capiz, together with Gregorio Pastrana, Manuel Laserna, Teodulfo Sañer, Rafael Tumbokon, Jose Urquiola and Eufrosino Alba also filed House Bill No. 334 on March 17, 1955, which aimed for "the restoration to Aklan of its birthright to become a province." The law, known as Republic Act No. 1414, created Aklan as the 53rd province of the country in 1956.

The historical and tourist attractions of Aklan are the Ati-Atihan Festival, the monument in memory of the "Nineteen Martyrs," and the Kalantiaw Shrine. The Ati-Atihan, a socio-religious fiesta, depicts a home town rejoicing after a victorious battle with a neighboring tribe and ends up with an amiable reconciliation between the warring tribes. The monument on the way to the capital town of Kalibo, in honor of General Francisco del Castillo, consists of 19 stone-steps spiralling to the summit and the statue of a man on a horse atop these stairs. Lastly, the Shrine, in honor of the first known Filipino lawgiver, Datu Bendahara Kalantiaw, was declared as national shrine by President Ramon Magsaysay through Executive Order No. 234 on February 11, 1957. It houses documents and publications of the National Historical Commission on an area of 12,995 square kilometers along the coastline of Batan Bay, including the reclaimed portion of 7,347 square meters believed as the location of the original settlement of Datu Sumakwel and his kin.





*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF AKLAN

The Province of Aklan was created under R.A. 1414 on April 25, 1956.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Aklan



ILANG-ILANG  
*Provincial Flower*

<i>Star</i>	— symbolizes light and guidance on different areas of human endeavor.
<i>Vinta</i>	— symbolizes pre-Spanish history and civilization of the province; also signifies the rich fishing ground of Aklan.
<i>Banana and Abaca</i>	— fertility of soil of the province and its abundant supply of banana and abaca.
<i>Rice Grains</i>	— signifies that Aklan is a rice producing province and self-sufficient in rice.
<i>Coconut Trees</i>	— indicate that copra is one of Aklan's major products.
<i>Date</i>	— When Aklan was separated from its mother province of Capiz.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE

ANTIQUE is one of the provinces comprising Panay Island; the other three are Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan. It is a narrow strip of land stretching along the entire west coast of the island—shielded from storms by mountain ranges in the east that cut off the rains of the northwest monsoon and cause a dry season from November to April. The forests in the east and the sea in the west, however, temper the climate with rainfall during the rest of the year.

The mineral resources of the province are copper and chromite-manganese. Its most important products are rice, corn, coconut, cassava, mongo and muscovado sugar, particularly in the towns of Sibalom, San Jose, Patnongan and Dao in the north, and Pandan, Culasi and Bugasong in the south. *Tuna* and *bangus* fry abound in the official fishing ground of Cuyo Pass, along the Antique coast.

Antique is composed of 18 municipalities on a land area of 2,522 square kilometers. It had a population of 289,172 in 1970

Although with vast stretches of irrigated rice fields and rich fishing grounds, the people engage in cottage industries—basket, hat and mat weaving, pot making, *piña* and *jusi* cloth weaving, and salt processing. Classified as the best *sacada* laborers in the world by the International Labor Organization, they migrate to the sugar cane fields of Negros during harvest season.

The province could be traced from the legendary ten Bornean Datus who landed at Sinogbuhan (near Miag-ao, Iloilo). Their chosen site, after the purchase of Panay with the golden "*salakot*" in the 13th century, was called "*Hamtic*," after "*hamtic-hamtic*," meaning large ants which were abundant in the place. About three hundred years before the arrival of the Spaniards, Panay was divided into three political units or "*sakops*," namely Hamtik, Irong-Irong and Aklan.

During the early years of Spanish conquest, Panay Island—12 leagues from Cebu (Cebu) and 2½ leagues from Negros Island—was the most fertile and well-provisioned among the discovered islands, except Lucon (Luzon). The Augustinians

established the first mission sites in Panay. As early as 1630, their records of religious missions were found.

In 1790, Antique was converted into a politico-military province with the town of Antique as its first capital. The provincial seat of government was later transferred to Bugasong, and finally to San Jose de Buenavista.

During the Philippine Revolution, in September 1898, General Emilio Aguinaldo appointed Léandro Fullon, one of the bravest generals, to lead the revolutionary activity in Antique. A provincial government of the revolutionists was later set up in the province. Angel Salazar became the provincial chief and Ariston Gella, its representative to the Malolos Congress. With the abolition of the Federal Council, General Fullon became the politico-military governor of Antique.

General Fullon also led the Antiqueños and the other people of the provinces of Panay against the American forces. He, however, surrendered on March 23, 1901, the same day General Aguinaldo was captured by the American forces in Palanan. On April 13, 1901, a civil government was established in Antique, and he was again appointed as governor.

Under the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935, Calixto D. Zaldivar became the representative of Antique to the National Assembly.

Before the outbreak of World War II, in 1939, Antique was chosen as one of the mobilization centers, in anticipation of the Japanese invasion. On February 12, 1940, San Jose became the headquarters of the mobilization. Two years later, in 1942, after a series of Japanese bombings, the Japanese Imperial Forces commanded by General Masaharu Homma organized the Kawane Detachment which occupied the island of Panay.

Not only rich in history but also in folklore, Antique takes pride in its colorful *Binirayan*, translated as leisurely boat ride in Kiniray-a, which commemorates the arrival of the ten Bornean Datus in Panay. The festival, climaxed by a Mass in Kiniray-a, is a tour to the scenic Mararison Island, the Bato Cueba, Canagan Waterfalls, the Limpatan Rock, Jurao-jurao Island, and the surrounding beaches along the Antique shorelines.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE

The Province of Antique was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Antique

*Upper Portion*

— signifies the vast mountain ranges and ricefields of the province.

*Left Side Portion*

— signifies that copra is the major product of Antique.

*Right Side Portion*

— signifies that sugar, rice and corn are the major staple produce of Antique.

*Center Oval*

— symbolizes the Sulu Sea which abounds in fish, and the fishing industry of the province.

*Five Fishes*

— represents the five (5) **datu**s who stayed in Antique out of the ten (10) that left Malay for the Island of Panay.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAPIZ

CAPIZ, one of the provinces comprising the island of Panay, is bounded by the Sibuyan Sea on the north, Aklan on the north-west, Antique on the west, and Iloilo on the south and east.

The province, with a land area of 249,000 hectares and a population of 393,677 in 1970, is composed of 16 municipalities and a city (Roxas City, its capital).

Agriculture and fishing are the most important industries of Capiz. The eastern part is adapted to sugar cane and the central portion to rice; the province being called the rice granary of Panay and Negros.

The word *capiz* was believed to be derived from the Visayan word *kapid* meaning *twins*, which were born in the area. "Capiz" was thus appended to the town now known as Roxas City. Later, the Aklan District, composed of the present provinces of Capiz and Aklan, also adopted the name.

The Malay settlements in the island of Panay may be traced from the ten datus who sailed from Borneo to escape a rajah's persecution. They landed at the mouth of the Sirwaken River, near San Joaquin, Iloilo. After their purchase of the island from the aborigines (the *Ati*) under Marikudo, the Bornean datus divided Panay into three *sakops*. Datu Bangkaya ruled Aklan district, one of the *sakops*.

In 1569, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi built the first Spanish settlement on the site of the present town of Panay. This was the second Spanish settlement, next to San Miguel in Cebu.

The flourishing native settlements in the island were later organized into towns, namely, Dumarao and Panay in 1581, Dumalag in 1596, Mambusao in 1606, Panitan in 1692, Capiz in 1707, Dao in 1771, Tapaz in 1802, Ivisan in 1853, Pontevedra in 1856, Pilar in 1857, Cuartero in 1867, and Ma-ayon in 1882.

In 1716, up to the end of the Spanish rule, Capiz and Aklan were organized into politico-military provinces, including the

neighboring islands of Romblon, Maestro de Campo, Tablas and Sibuyan. These areas were formerly under the jurisdiction of Oton, Iloilo.

During the Philippine Revolution, General Ananias Diokno occupied Capiz in 1898, after the island of Panay was abandoned by the Spaniards.

When the American forces occupied the country, General Elwell S. Otis issued an order on February 29, 1899, providing for the creation of a military district comprising the island of Panay and other Visayan islands.

The civil government was established in Capiz on April 15, 1901. The same year, the efforts to divide Capiz into two provinces did not materialize. Instead, by virtue of Act No. 1165, dated July 2, 1907, the Province of Romblon was annexed to Capiz. Later, Act No. 2724, dated December 7, 1917, re-established the former Province of Romblon.

During the Pacific War, on April 16, 1942, the Japanese Imperial Forces landed on Panay Island. The 61st Division under General Albert Christie capitulated to the enemy on May 24, 1942. The USAFFE soldiers who did not surrender organized the Free Panay Force under Macario Peralta and Governor Tomas Confesor revived the Emergency Provincial Guards. Jointly, the two organizations waged a guerrilla warfare in the province. By March 1945, Panay was liberated from the Japanese forces.

On April 25, 1956, Republic Act No. 1414, created Aklan into a separate and independent province.

Capiz is the birthplace of the first president of the Republic of the Philippines, Manuel A. Roxas. Some of its tourist attractions are the natural bridge of Suhut, the caves in Dumalag, the bubbling springs of sulphurous and salty water near the Suhut bridge, the numerous waterfalls and the springs in Jamin-dan and Mambusao.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF CAPIZ

The Province of Capiz was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Capiz

*Upper Portion* — depicts Manuel A. Roxas, foremost Capi-zeño and first president of the Republic of the Philippines.

*Lower Portion* — represents agriculture and fishing as the most important industries of the province.

## HISTORY OF THE SUBPROVINCE OF GUIMARAS

GUIMARAS lies between the islands of Panay and Negros in the Western Visayas. It is surrounded on the north and northwest by the Iloilo Strait which separates it from the province of Iloilo, on the south and southwest by the Panay Gulf, and in the east and southeast by the Guimaras Strait that sets it apart from Negros Occidental. The subprovince is composed of the islands of Guimaras (the biggest), Inampulungan, Tandog, Nadulao, Nalunga, Panubulon and other islets which comprised the municipalities of Buenavista, Jordan and Nueva Valencia. Most of the populous towns of the subprovince are reached by ferry boats or motorized bancas from Iloilo City. Sebaste, on the southeastern part of Guimaras Island, is a landing beach for sea vessels of light tonnage.

Guimaras Subprovince, with an aggregate land area of 604.4 square kilometers and a population of 73,014 in 1970, is a broad flat land. Mounts Acdan and Pandin are the only highlands.

Rice, corn and sugar cane are raised. Basket, hat and mat weaving from the *pandan* and *buri* palms, and fishing are its industries. Charcoal, however, is the principal product of Guimaras. A cement factory is established in Buenavista.

In 1565, the crew dispatched by Legazpi from Bohol cruised along the eastern shores of Guimaras. After 1569, Panay Island was divided into two civil provinces, Panay on the north, and Oton or Ogtong (later known as Arevalo) and finally Iloilo province on the south, to which Guimaras was an integral part. Guimaras remained as a part of Iloilo until the end of Spanish rule.

After the American forces occupied the island of Panay, during the Filipino-American War, the U.S. Army maintained

a military reservation, known as Camp Jossman, (now barrio of Sunang) in Buenavista, which was the headquarters of the American forces in Panay, Negros and nearby provinces. During this period, General Douglas MacArthur, then a first lieutenant, had his first tour of duty as an officer of the Army Engineers. He built the wharf at Buenavista.

During World War II, the Japanese forces occupied and garrisoned the towns of Buenavista, Jordan and Nueva Valencia, in 1942. Later, due to the active operations of the guerrillas, many of its residents became victims of Japanese atrocities, particularly in Buenavista where many persons were executed from July 9 to September 8, 1943 — for being suspected of complicity with the underground movement.

On February 14, 1945, a contingent of Panay Forces under the command of Captain Luis Herrera attacked Buenavista. When the Americans landed on Guimaras in 1945, the Japanese forces had already evacuated to Iloilo and Negros where they made their final stand. Prior to the landing of the American forces, their aerial bombings destroyed many buildings, including the Trappist Monastery in Nueva Valencia.

Guimaras was created as a subprovince of Iloilo under Republic Act No. 4667, approved on June 18, 1966, as amended by R.A. No. 5463, approved on April 14, 1969, with Buenavista as the seat of its political administration.

Two of the historical spots in Guimaras are the site of Camp Jossman in Buenavista (the Municipal Board of Buenavista proposed to the NHC the installation of a historical marker in 1973), and the huge Cross at the shoreline — on the Iloilo-side of the Island, near the town of Jordan.







*City Seal*



*City Flag*

## SUB-PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS

The sub-province of Guimaras was created under R.A. 4667 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Guimaras

*Three Stars and  
Three Hills*

— symbolizes the three municipalities of Jordan, Buenavista and Nueva Valencia. The center hill represents Jordan, the capital of Guimaras. The Cross symbolizes the *Balaan-Bukid* Chapel, the mecca of devout catholics.

symbolizes the municipality of Nueva Valencia. Motorized banca symbolizes the means of transportation in the island.

*Left Lower Portion*

— coconut trees represent the major crop of the island. Carabao head and plow suggests that Guimaras is agricultural. The lighthouse

*Lower Right Portion* — the ship and bulk sugar handling installation thru which 80% of the country's export bulk sugar is channeled. The factory represents the Panay Cement Plant located in Buenavista.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO

THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, on the southeastern portion of Panay Island, is bounded on the north by Capiz and Aklan, on the west by Antique, on the south by the Guimaras Strait and the Panay Gulf, and on the northeast by the Visayan Sea.

The province, composed of the mainland Guimaras Island and other small islands, has a land area of 5,324 square kilometers and a population of 1,164,271 in 1970.

Iloilo has many good harbors and rich fishing grounds. It is a commercial center in the Western Visayas, particularly Iloilo City, Jaro, Oton and Pototan.

The region produces rice, sugar cane, corn, tobacco and cacao. Its home industries are *jusi*, *piña* and silk weaving and rope making. Fishing is an important industry.

In the 13th century, Datu Puti and nine other datus purchased Panay from Negrito Chief Marikudo for a gold hat (*salakot*) and a golden necklace. These datus established barangays or "*sakops*" which became the Confederation of the Madyaas, the first known organization of barangays composed of Hantik (now Antique) under Datu Sumakwel, Aklan (now Aklan and Capiz) under Datu Bankaya, and Irong-Irong (now Iloilo) under Datu Paiburong.

In 1569, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi settled in Arevalo, a district of Iloilo. In 1572, a mission center was established in Oton. Later, in 1582, Gonzalo Ronquillo enlarged Arevalo and made it the capital of Iloilo, referred to as *alcaldia-mayor* of Ogtong (Oton).

In 1600, Captain Juan de Sierra saved Arebalo (Arevalo) from the Muslim raids under Sali and Salonga.

When the Dutch assaulted Iloilo, Fernando de Ayala repulsed Admiral Wittert in 1609, and Diego Quiñones defeated Admiral Jan Derickson Lam on March 14, 1616.

The Augustinians founded the mission centers which grew into the towns of Oton (1572), Dumangas (1572), Janiuay (1578), Tigbauan (1580), Passi (1591), Laglag (1610), Miagao (1716), Cabatuan (1732), Comando (1738), Pototan (1740), Igaras (1750), Lambunao (1752), Alimodian (1754), Maasin

(1755), Sta. Barbara (1759), Calinog (1767), San Joaquin (1793), Tubungan (1814), Barotac (1825), Dingle (1825), and San Miguel (1825).

Originally, Iloilo Province included Antique, Aklan and Negros Island. Capiz was organized into a politico-military district in 1716, and Antique in 1790. Negros and Antique were created into provinces in 1798. The Port of Iloilo was opened in 1856.

After the fall of Manila to the Americans, Governor General Basilio Agustin decreed the organization of the *Filipino Voluntario Militia* on May 4, 1898. Consequently, General Ricardo Monet, governor of Iloilo, ordered the organization of *voluntarios* in the different towns. He appointed Captain Martin Delgado to organize the *militia* in Sta. Barbara and Mayor Vicente Gay y Acosta to take charge of the town of Iloilo. However, Delgado, Colonel Quintin Salas of Dumangas and Adriano Hernandez of Dingle turned out as revolutionists. They organized a revolutionary government and raised the Filipino flag in Santa Barbara on November 17, 1898, and occupied the municipality of Iloilo on December 25, 1898.

On February 11, 1899, the American forces under General Marcus Miller occupied Iloilo town and subsequently defeated the Filipino forces at Balantang, Sambag, Tacas and Jaro. After the surrender of Delgado to General Robert Hughes on February 2, 1901, a civil government was established in Iloilo on April 11, the same year.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Iloilo on April 11, 1942. Later, the American Liberation Forces and the Panay guerrillas under Colonel Macario Peralta, Jr., with Lt. Colonels Leopoldo Relunia, Julian Chavez, Valentin Grasparil and Pedro Serran liberated Iloilo on March 22, 1945. Tomas Confesor, Jose Zulueta, Juan Borra and other civil officials of the Free Panay Government also extended assistance to the victory of the 6th Military District Forces in the province.

Iloilo has mineral springs in Maasin, Tubungan, Janiuay and Nagaba. In Guimaras Island, General Douglas MacArthur, then a lieutenant, had his first tour of duty from 1900 to 1903 at Camp Jossmann, in the town of Buenavista.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ILOILO

The Province of Iloilo was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Iloilo

*Three Mountain Peaks*—signifies the separation of Iloilo from the provinces of Capiz and Antique.

*Carabao Head* — represents agriculture; also signi-

*Ship and Factory*

fies that Iloilo is a rice producing province.

—represents commerce, trade and industry.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL is bounded on the north by the Visayan Sea, on the northeast by the Tanon Strait, on the south and south-east by Negros Oriental, on the southwest by the Panay Gulf, and on the northwest by the Guimaras Strait.

Separated from Negros Oriental by a central mountain range, Negros Occidental has a land area of 7,926.1 square kilometers. In 1970, it had a population of 1,503,782.

Sugar is the most important product of the province, aside from copra, tobacco, rice and lumber. In 1972, Negros Occidental supplied 64.49% of the country's sugar output. Fishing and mining are its developing industries.

Negros Island was formerly called *Buglas*, but the Spaniards changed its name to Negros because of the presence of Negritos in the place.

In 1565, Captain Juan de Isla, with Guido de Lavezares, Andres Mirandola, Martin de Rada, and 70 men, took possession of Negros Island in the name of the King of Spain. On April 7 of the same year, Captain Juan de Aguirre with Esteban Rodriguez Figueroa sailed around the island and found many Negrito settlements.

By 1575, the Augustinian mission was established in Binalbagan, and another one at Ilog in 1584. Later, the Jesuits took over the spiritual ministration from 1628 to 1767. When the Jesuits were expelled from the country in 1768, the missions were turned over to the Recollects.

During the second half of the 16th century, the towns of Binaibagan, Ilog, San Isidro, San Carlos and Calatrava were founded.

In 1734, Negros Occidental was created as a politico-military *comandancia*. However, in 1856, the whole Negros Island be-

came a politico-military district. Later, in 1890, Negros Occidental was finally made a separate province.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the local revolutionary groups were organized in the province. It was, however, in 1898, that General Aniceto Lacson raised the "Cry" in Talisay, which openly declared the resistance of Negros Occidental against the Spaniards. The revolutionists seized and captured two Spanish garrisons under the command of Lieutenant Maximo Correa in Talisay and Colonel Isidro de Castro y Cisnore in Bacolod. The Filipino flag, sewed by Olimpia and Perpetua Severino and Eutropia Yorac, was unfurled in Talisay.

When the American forces came, Lacson, realizing the futility of further resistance, negotiated for peace. On March 4, 1899, General James F. Smith, with the California Volunteers, occupied Bacolod. A civil government was established in the province on April 20, 1901.

On May 20, 1942, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied and controlled Negros Occidental. The guerrilla units, which were organized later, became the 7th Military District under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Salvador Abcede. A war-time provincial government was established with Alfredo Montelibano as governor.

On March 29, 1945, the American Liberation Forces under General Rapp Brush landed in Bacolod. The Japanese Forces led by Lieutenant Colonel Takeshi Kono surrendered to the Americans in August 1945.

The historical landmarks in the province are the house in Talisay and the statue in Bacolod of Generals Aniceto Lacson and Juan Araneta, respectively, both local revolutionary leaders.

The mineral springs of Mambucal and Murcia are noted tourist attractions of the province.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The Province of Negros Occidental was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Negros Occidental

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Upper Portion</i>  | — represents the sugar industry which is the hood of the province, and the majestic Kanla-on Volcano.                                     |
| <i>Middle Portion</i> | — shows the Provincial Capitol, seat of the Provincial Government.  |
| <i>Lower Portion</i>  | — sailing ship signifies sugar as a potential export industry of Negros; also depicts the development of fishing as a secondary industry. |



**ILANG-ILANG**  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL

BOHOL PROVINCE, rugged and oval-shaped, is considered the tenth largest island in the Archipelago. It is located east of Cebu and southwest of Leyte, and bounded on the north by the Camotes Sea, on the west by the Bohol Strait, and on the south by the Mindanao Sea.

The province, with a 161-kilometer coastline and an area of 4,117.3 square kilometers, has four seaports, namely, Tagbilaran, Jagna, Tubigon and Jetafe. It has also several mountain peaks, the most popular are Alimani, Bunucon, Lusday, Calihumangad, Colayhuan, Canliboy and Campusa. The notable rivers of the island are the Inabangan River in the north and the Loboc River in the south.

Because of topographical conditions, the climate is not uniform—warm and dry along the coast, and cold and humid in the interior. The rainfall, however, is evenly distributed.

Bohol had a population of 683,297 as of 1970.

After Ferdinand Magellan was killed by Lapu-Lapu in Mactan, the Spaniards burned one of their ships, the *Concepcion*, in the island of Bohol.

In 1565, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi dropped anchor at Jagna, Bohol. The natives were unfriendly because the Spaniards were mistaken for Portuguese marauders who used to plunder the coasts of Bohol. However, in the small village of Bohol, a few kilometers from the present capital of Tagbilaran, Legazpi performed the “blood compact” with Chiefs Sikatuna and Sigala, signifying that they were blood brothers.

The province became a Jesuit mission site in 1595. On

November 17, of the same year, Fathers Juan Torres and Gabriel Sanchez stayed at Baclayon, and later at the fishing village of Loboc. A chapel was constructed, “and soon eleven barangays had settled down (sic) near the chapel to form the town of Loboc. A mission site was also established at Talibon.”

Bohol records two local revolts: the Tamblot rebellion in 1621, led by a native priest or *Babaylan* and the Dagohoy revolt from 1744 to 1829 (the longest ever recorded in Philippine history), led by Francisco Dagohoy.

During the Filipino-American War, the American forces seized the province on March 17, 1900. In 1901, the revolutionists led by Captain Gregorio Caseñas fought the Americans in a bloody battle at Jagna which was captured and burned by the enemies.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Northern Bohol Guerrilla Forces was organized in Loon in September 1942 under Lieutenant Vidal V. Cresencio, and in Guindulman under Major Esteban Bernido. On November 19, 1943, the united command of the Bohol guerrilla forces was organized, with Major Ismael Ingeniero as the Bohol Area Commander.

Bohol is the home province of the fourth President of the Republic of the Philippines, Carlos Polistico Garcia (1957-1960) who was born in Talibon.

The tourist attractions of the province are the Chocolate Hills which look like “inverted kettledrums covered with grass” in the towns of Carmen, Bilar, Loon, and Clarin; the Badiang Swimming Pool in Valencia where the water gushes from a spring; and the old watchtower in Punta Cruz, Maribojoc.







*Provincial Seal*



**WHITE GUMAMELA**  
*Provincial Flower*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BOHOL

The Province of Bohol was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bohol

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Colors</i>            | — represent the Philippine flag and its true meaning.   |
| <i>Blood Compact</i>     | — symbolize the historical blood-letting by Sikatuna and Legazpi on March 16, 1665, the country's first peace treaty. |
| <i>Upper Mid-section</i> | — replica of the famous chocolate hills of Carmen town which is a famous tourism attraction of the country.           |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU

THE ISLAND PROVINCE OF CEBU is bounded on the north by the Visayan Sea, on the east by the Camotes Sea and the Bohol Strait, and on the south and west by the Tañon Strait.

Cebu had a population of 1,631,531 in 1970. With a land area of 4,868.5 square kilometers, it is composed of 5 cities and 48 municipalities.

Aside from being a premiere corn-producing province of the country, Cebu also produces coconut, sugarcane, abaca, peanut, banana, pineapple, camote and tobacco. Cotton cloth is woven for local consumption, while *sinamay*, woven out of banana and pineapple fiber, is an important export item.

The island province is also rich in mineral resources. Cebu has the biggest copper mining firm in East Asia—the Atlas Consolidated Mining Company—located in Toledo City. A government cement factory is also found in the town of Naga.

Cebu, or Sugbu, ruled by Rajah Humabon, was already a prosperous settlement before the Spaniards came in 1521. It had trade relations with China and the other countries of Southeast Asia.

On April 14, 1521, in the first Catholic Mass at Cebu, Rajah Humabon and his wife, and about 800 natives, were baptized. Thirteen days later, on the 27th, Ferdinand Magellan met his death while engaged in a battle against Lapu-Lapu in Mactan, an island off the coast of Cebu.

On April 27, 1565, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, with Augustinian Fr. Andres de Urdaneta, landed in Cebu. They found in one of the houses an image of the Holy Child which was believed

to be the gift of Magellan to Humabon's wife. A chapel was built for the Holy Child, and Legazpi named the town as San Miguel. On January 1, 1571, Legazpi founded the present City of Cebu, changing its former name of San Miguel to "*La Villa del Santissimo Nombre de Jesus*."

The Philippine Revolution of 1896 took effect in Cebu on April 3, 1898, when Pantaleon Villegas, popularly known as "Leon Kilat," attacked the Spanish garrison at the corner of the present Calamba and Tres de Abril streets in the city.

The American forces occupied Cebu in February 1899. They established a military government which was later changed to a civil government; but due to the continued local "insurrection," the military government was restored. Finally, the civilian authority was established on January 1, 1902.

On April 10, 1942, the Japanese Imperial Forces landed and took possession of the province. A great number of Filipino and American soldiers fled to the mountains. Later, they regrouped and organized themselves into guerrilla bands led by Colonels James Cushing and Harry Fenton. They harassed the enemy and aided the American Liberation Forces in 1945.

On March 17, 1957, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay, died in the "Mt. Pinatubo" plane crash on Mount Manunggal in Cebu.

Often referred to as the "Queen City of the South," and the seat of early Filipino Christianization, Cebu is also known for musical stringed instruments, like *banduria*, guitar, or piccolo.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



AFRICAN DAISY  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF CEBU

The Province of Cebu was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cebu

*Spear Crossed by a Bolo*—symbolizes the resistance of Lapu-Lapu against Magellan.

*Six Oysters* — represent the six (6) generals who revolted against the Spaniards and Americans, namely, Generals Maxilom, Echavez, Cabrerós, Leon Kilat, Jaca and Genes.

*Black and White Squares*

— represent the forty-eight (48) municipalities of the Province of Cebu.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL

THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, occupying the eastern half of Negros Island, is bounded on the northeast by the Municipality of San Carlos, on the southwest by the Sulu Sea, on the northwest by Negros Occidental, and on the southeast by the Tañon Strait. The coastal areas in the northern section are drained by the Hibaigo, Magingin, Payabon and Tanjay Rivers while the most deeply wooded areas in the southwestern portion are the sources of Maayontubig, Candugay, Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Bayawan Rivers.

The province has an area of 5,745.8 square kilometers and a population of 715,240 in 1970. With its rich soil of volcanic origin, sugar, coconut, abaca, rice and corn grow well. Lumbering, mining and ceramics are some of its important industries.

Mount Canlaon, and *Cuernos de Negros*, called *Talinis* by the natives, are two of its well-known volcanoes.

Facing Cebu, the province has good harbors in Dumaguete, Bais, and Tanjay.

Long before the Spaniards came, the Chinese, Muslims and Malaysians had already visited the place.

In April 1521, Ferdinand Magellan dispatched a small crew which landed on the eastern part of Negros. This group was considered as the "first European to set foot on the island."

In 1565, Esteban Rodriguez, a member of the Legazpi expedition, sailed from Bohol. He encountered a storm and took shelter on the eastern coast of Negros Island from where he cruised to the western side of Cebu. In his trip, he mentioned many Negritos inhabiting the region. In June of the same year, Father Andres de Urdaneta sailed via the Danao River and landed near Escalante. The following September, Mateo del Saez and Martin de Goiti landed near Tanjay. They were followed in October 1565 by Captain Manuel de Loarca, one of the members of the Legazpi expedition, who took possession of "Negros."

Because of the many Negritos in Buglas, as Negros was then known, the Spaniards changed the name of the region to "Negros."

In 1572, Lope de Povedano, an *encomendero*, found out that the Tanjay-Dumaguete area was the most populous among the regions. To convert the people into the Christian faith, Don Ferriera, first Archdeacon of the Cathedral of Cebu, sent Father Gabriel Sanchez to give further religious instruction to the natives. In 1620, Dumaguete was created as a separate parish from Tanjay with Father Juan de Rosa y Herrera as the first priest.

The region now Negros Oriental was administered from Cebu before 1734. It was, however, made a part of the politico-military *comandancia* of Negros Island until 1856. In 1890, Negros Island was divided into the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental. As a regular province, it comprised the towns of Amlan, Ayungon, Ayuquita, Bacong, Bais, Bayanan (Bayawan), Canoan, Dauin, Dumaguete, Guihulngan, Manjuyod, New Valencia, Siaton, Tanjay, Tayasan, Tolon and Zamboangita, with Don Joaquin Tavera as the military governor.

During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, the people took up arms against the Spanish government under the leadership of Pantaleon Villegas, better known as "Leon Kilat."

After the outbreak of the Filipino-American War, the local revolutionary forces surrendered to the American forces. A civil government was subsequently established and Don Demetrio Larena became the first governor. During this period, Siquijor was made a subprovince of Negros Oriental.

In 1942, during World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Negros Oriental. The guerrilla forces of the 7th Military District under Lt. Col. Placido Ausejo, however, controlled large portions of the province prior to the landing of the American Division in Looc, Sibulan, on April 26, 1945. For sometime, fighting raged around the Dumaguete area. Negros Oriental was liberated on June 20, 1945.

The provincial jurisdiction of Negros Oriental diminished when Republic Act No. 6398 separated the Subprovince of Siquijor and made it independent of Negros Oriental on September 17, 1971.

A noted Protestant educational institution of the province, Silliman University, was established in 1901.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL

The Province of Negros Oriental was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Negros Oriental

*Sugar Central and  
Coconut Tree*

— signifies the two major industries of the province, namely, the coconut and sugar industries.

*Upper Portion*

— the famous “Gate of Opportunity” representing Silliman University which has been mainly responsible for the education and cultural growth of the province.



BANABA  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SIKUIJOR

SIKUIJOR lies east of the southern tip of Negros, south of Cebu and southwest of Bohol. It is separated by the Mindanao Sea from the northern coast of Mindanao. The island with low mountains has light rainfall throughout the year.

Siquijor, earlier known to the Spaniards as "*Isla de Fuegos*" or "Fire Island" because of the lights from hundreds of fireflies and to the friars as "Siquijod, Siquijor, and Siquijor," was claimed by others to have been named after King Kihod, its legendary ruler. However, the old people stated that it was called *Katugasan*, from *tugas* (molave tree in the Cebu-Visayan dialect) which covered the island.

The original inhabitants came as farmers and fishermen from Cebu, Bohol, and the adjacent islands. In the new settlement they planted tobacco, cacao and corn, and raised poultry for sale in the markets of Dumaguete.

Larena, one of the well-organized towns founded by Father Eustaquio Ruiz, was for sometime the capital of the island. It was an ecclesiastical and trading center. The other towns then were Maria, (formerly Can-Meniac), San Juan, Lazi (Tigbauan), and Enrique Villanueva (formerly Barrio Talingting).

From 1638 to the close of the Spanish sovereignty, Siquijor remained under the control of the ecclesiastical authorities in Cebu. For sometime, it was politically administered by the province of Bohol. It was not until June 4, 1901, when it was separated from Bohol and made a sub-province of Negros Oriental.

Unlike in Cebu and Negros, the conditions in the island were generally quiet during the Philippine revolution.

In 1922 General Leonard Wood visited Siquijor to appraise its public works. Aboard the presidential yacht, "Casiana," President Manuel L. Quezon also came and visited the island.

During World War II, Siquijor was briefly governed by Shunzo Suzuki, a Japanese civilian appointed by the Japanese Imperial Forces, until he was assassinated by the guerrilla forces under Lt. Jumawan in October 1942. Mamor Fukuda took over the control of Siquijor from June 1943 until the Japanese forces abandoned the island when the liberation forces came in 1944.

Siquijor became a sub-province of Negros Oriental and remained as such until the enactment into law of House Bill No. 652, known as Republic Act No. 6398, dated September 17, 1971, which provided for the separation of Siquijor as an independent and regular province of Negros Oriental. The province was then composed of the municipalities of Enrique Villanueva, Maria, Lazi, Larena and San Juan.

By virtue of Proclamation No. 1075, signed on September 12, 1972, the capital was transferred from Larena to the town of Siquijor where it remains today.

Although rice, corn and a few products are produced in Siquijor, trade and commerce have to supplement these sources of income of the 54,006 inhabitants (in 1970) in order to alleviate their economic problems.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR

The Province of Siquijor was created under R.A. 6398 on September 17, 1971.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Siquijor

<i>Silhouette of Island</i>	— the Island of Siquijor	<i>Miner's Hat, Pick, Shovel and Lamp</i>	— signify the rich natural resources of the province.
<i>Sunrise</i>	— represents trade and commerce		
<i>Sailboat</i>	— represents the bright future of the province.	<i>Six Stars</i>	— represent the six municipalities comprising the province.
<i>Coconut Trees</i>	— represent the coconut industry, major source of livelihood of Siquijor.	<i>Colors Red, White and Blue</i>	— represent the Philippine Flag and its true meaning.

## Region VIII

### HISTORY OF THE SUBPROVINCE OF BILIRAN

BILIRAN ISLAND, a subprovince of Leyte, consists of the municipalities of Almeria, Biliran, Cabucgayan, Caibiran, Culaba, Kawayan and Naval, and the island-municipality of Maripipi. It is north of Leyte Province, and surrounded by the Samar Sea on the north and east, the Leyte and Carigara Bays on the south, and the Visayan Sea on the west. Its total land area is 555.6 square kilometers.

In 1970, the subprovince had a population of 90,498. The inhabitants in the western part speak Cebuano while those in the eastern side use Samar-Leyte (Waray). They are engaged in agriculture, hunting, fishing, lumbering and manufacturing.

Naval, Biliran and Caibiran have wide areas of cultivated lands while Cabucgayan and Kawayan have good fishing grounds. Sulphur is found in the island and coral reefs dot its coasts.

Biliran Subprovince is generally mountainous. Steep volcanic peaks dominate the central part while Mount Suirio, with an elevation of 1,300 meters, rises on the southeastern portion of the island. Rivers also abound in the place.

The island was originally known as Panamao. It was then under the jurisdiction of Leyte.

In 1601, Francisco Vicente conducted the building of galleons in the island. Under Spanish engineers, the Filipino, Negro and Chinese workmen were able to build six galleons. In one of these ships, Fr. Pedro Chirino sailed for Rome to personally report to Fr. Claudius Aquaviva, the Jesuit general, about the Leyte missionary work.

In 1768, the Jesuit missions in Leyte were assigned to the Augustinians until 1804 when some of the parishes were ceded to the secular clergy and the others (those on the eastern coast of Leyte, except Biliran which was given to the diocesan clergy) to the Franciscans.

During the Second World War, the Japanese Imperial Forces landed at Barrio Pinamopo-an in the Municipality of Capocan, Leyte. A few days later the islands of Leyte and Biliran were occupied by the enemy.

When the American and Filipino troops surrendered in 1942, many civilians and members of the armed forces in Leyte fled to the hills in order to engage in guerrilla warfare. By late 1942, Alejandro Balderian became one of the prominent guerrilla leaders in northern Leyte. Biliran Island was under the control of the 1st Battalion commanded by Captain Antonio Cinco. About the middle of 1943, the guerrilla forces in the island under Capt. G. Corpin joined the forces of Lt. Col. Filemon Pamanian. The guerrilla unit became the 3rd Battalion of the 95th Regiment under Colonel Ruperto Kangleon.

On October 20, 1944, the American Liberation Forces landed at Palo, Leyte. Consequently, the Japanese forces under General Suzuki immediately deserted their camp in the province. However, it was only on May 5, 1945, when the mopping operations against the enemy were terminated in Leyte.

On April 8, 1959, Republic Act No. 2141 created the Subprovince of Biliran. The law was later amended by R.A. No. 5977, enacted on June 21, 1969, and by R.A. No. 6415, approved on October 4, 1971.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## **SUB-PROVINCE OF BILIRAN**

The Sub-Province of Biliran was created under R.A. 2141 on April 8, 1959.

### **Meaning of the Official Seal of Biliran**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Island and Islets</i> | — the sub-province of Biliran, Leyte                      |
| <i>Eight Rays</i>        | — represent the eight municipalities of the sub-province. |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE

THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE is composed of the northern portion of the old Leyte Province and the islands of Biliran, Gigatangan and Marapipi. It is bounded by the Carigara Bay and the San Juanico Strait on the north, the Visayan Sea on the west, the Leyte Gulf on the east, and the Province of Southern Leyte on the south.

The province, with a land area of 6,268.3 square kilometers and a population of 1,110,626 in 1970, has 49 municipalities and two cities, with Tacloban City as the capital. The most important crops are rice, corn, sugar cane, coconut, abaca, sweet potato, tobacco and cassava.

In 1521, Magellan sailed from the island of Homonhon, Samar, to the island of Limasawa, Leyte, where a blood compact was held between Rajah Kolambu and Magellan on March 29 of the same year. In Limasawa, on Easter Sunday, March 31st, Father Pedro de Valderama and the other friars celebrated the first mass which was attended by Rajah Siago and Magellan.

In February 1543, the Spanish navigator, Ruy Lopez de Villalobos, named Leyte as "*Felipina*," after Prince Philip of Spain. This name was later given to the whole Archipelago. Villalobos later landed at the Bislig Bay, Surigao, and commanded Captain Bernardo de la Torre to proceed to the north, where he possibly landed at Tendaya, Leyte, after a shipwreck caused by storms.

In 1580, Fr. Alonso Velasquez started a mission site in Barugo with Fr. Alonso Gimenez, who later became the "Apostle of Bicolandia." On July 16, 1595; Fr. Pedro Chirino built a church and planted a cross at the beach of Abuyog. The seat of the missionary work was later abandoned for Dulag and Carigara. In 1630, the Dulag residence was transferred to Dagami.

Leyte, particularly the settlements of Palo, Palompon, Ormoc, Carigara, Cabalian, Sagod, Babay, Dulag and Tinagon,

suffered from the separate raids of the Muslim Sultans, Pagdalanum Buhiran and Kudarat, and the Suluans. To check further depredations, Fr. Melchor de Vera, built forts or *baluartes* for defense and refuge in case of attack.

Aside from the Muslim raids, Datu Bankaw of Limasawa, with the help of his son Pagali, revolted; but they were quelled by superior Spanish arms.

Leyte was under the jurisdiction of Cebu in the early years of Spanish rule. In 1735, it became a politico-military province, with Samar under its jurisdiction. Samar and Leyte were separated in 1768. The first capital of Leyte was Carigara then Palo, Tanawan, and finally Tacloban.

On February 27, 1768, the Jesuits were expelled from the country and the Augustinians, under Fr. Joseph Victoria, took over the religious work in 1770. The same year, Governor Simon de Anda stationed the *Armada de Pintados* in the Visayas to protect the islands from Muslim retaliative attacks. This was followed by the opening of the port of Tacloban.

Under the American military government, Colonel Arthur Murray became the first military governor of Leyte until April 10, 1901, when he was succeeded by Henry T. Allen under the civil government. In February 1904, Jaime de Veyra became governor; later he was appointed Philippine Commissioner to Washington.

During the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese Imperial Forces, the American troops led by General Douglas MacArthur and President Sergio Osmeña landed at Palo, Leyte, on October 20, 1944. MacArthur then announced the re-establishment of the Philippine Government with Osmeña as the president.

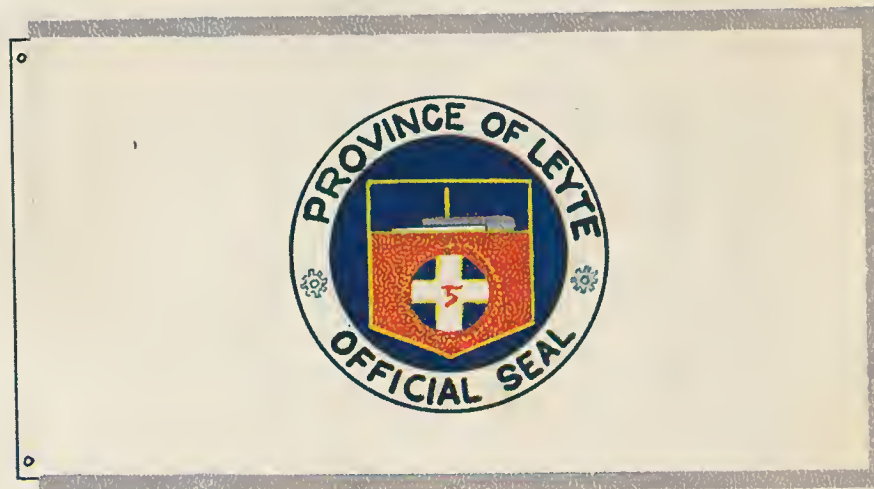
On May 22, 1959, by virtue of Republic Act No. 2227, the old province of Leyte was divided into the present Leyte and Southern Leyte Provinces.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF LEYTE

The Province of Leyte was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Leyte



ROSE  
*Provincial Flower*

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Upper Portion</i>                 | — a perspective of the National Freedom Park commemorating the landing of General Douglas MacArthur and the American Liberation Forces in Leyte during World War II. |
| <i>White Cross</i>                   | — represents the second phase of Leyte's development when Magellan stopped there on his way to Cebu.   |
| <i>Alphabet on Cross<br/>Argent</i>  | — the ancient Visayan paleographic syllabary of the letter L which stands for Leyte.   |
| <i>Stars Around Inner<br/>Circle</i> | — symbolize the forty-nine (49) towns of the province.   |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE

THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, a portion of the old Leyte Province, is bounded by the present Province of Leyte on the north, the Camotes Sea on the west, the Sugod Bay on the south, and the Leyte Gulf on the east.

The province, consisting of 17 municipalities including four islands and islets (Limasawa, Panaon, San Pablo and San Pedro), has a land area of 1,734.8 square kilometers and a population of 251,425,997 in 1970. Its important crops are coconut, abaca, rice, corn, sugar cane, and banana. The Sugod Bay abounds with fish.

Most of the people of Southern Leyte are descendants of the Boholanos. Generally, they speak the Cebuano and Boholano dialects.

Limasawa, where the first Christian Mass was held in the Far East in 1521, is in Southern Leyte. It became the springboard of Catholicism in the country.

On August 13, 1898, the province had already a Court of First Instance and the Offices of the "Promoter Fiscal" (now Provincial Fiscal) and "*Administrador de Hacienda*" (now Provincial Treasurer) in Maasin, the present capital.

Under the American administration, these offices were abolished and the provincial government, except the administration of justice, was transferred to Tacloban.

A general movement to divide Leyte Province into two became a recurrent election issue. After his election in 1919, Ciriaco K. Kangleon, 2nd Legislative District, presented in the House of Representatives the first bill providing for the division of Leyte into two. The bill was defeated in the Senate

by a difference of one vote.

In 1922, Tomas Oppus, also of the 2nd District, presented House Bill No. 254 which became Act No. 3117. The law provided for an Oriental and Occidental Leyte which shall take effect after the proclamation of the Governor General; but the proclamation never came.

In 1930, the Philippine Legislature passed Act No. 3788 which provided for the five districts without regard to the demarcation line between the two provinces. The towns of Palompon and Villaba in the Occidental were grouped with those of the Oriental. The new law (Act No. 3788) not only modified but also impliedly repealed the former law (Act No. 3771).

In 1953, Francisco Pajao, with Alberto Aguja, authored a bill for the division of Leyte simultaneously with Ruperto Kangleon, who presented Senate Bill No. 2140. The Senate Bill was passed in the Chamber but it died in the House when Pajao withdrew his bill, leaving the Kangleon Bill without any sponsor.

In 1957, Nicanor Yñiguez, 3rd Congressional District, also presented another bill, co-authored by Marcelino Veloso of the First District, Alberto Aguja of the 5th District, and Daniel Romualdez of the 4th District. But Dominador Tan of the 2nd District opposed said bill; hence, it was finally shelved. An alternate version, H. B. No. 1318, provided for the creation of a separate province from the municipalities of the 3rd District. It became Republic Act No. 2227, approved on May 22, 1959. This law finally created Southern Leyte from the confederated string of municipalities.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**ORCHID**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE

The Province of Southern Leyte was created under R.A. 2227 on May 22, 1959.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Southern Leyte

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Handclasp</i>         | — symbolizes friendship and hospitality which the Southern Leyteños are noted for.  |
| <i>Cross and Galleon</i> | — signify the introduction of Christianity in the Philippines by Ferdinand Magellan and the first Mass held at Limasawa Island. |
| <i>Two Leaves</i>        | — represent abaca and coconut, principal products of the province.  |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR

EASTERN SAMAR comprises the eastern portion of the former Province of Samar. The coast of the province faces the Pacific Ocean. It is separated by mountain ranges from Northern and Western Samar. Along the coastline, it has good harbors, such as those in Borongan, MacArthur, Balangiga, Sulat and Homonhon where ships anchor during stormy seasons.

Borongan, its capital, was an important port of commerce and trade during the Spanish times and a port of call during the early days of the galleon trade. The Municipalities of Eastern Samar are Arteche, Balangiga, Balangkayan, Borongan, Can-Avid, Dolores, General MacArthur, Gaporlos, Guiuan, Hernani, Jipapad, Lawa-an, Llorente, Maslog, Maydolong, Mercedes, Oras, Quinapundan, Salcedo, San Julian, San Policarpio, Sulat and Taft. The province has a land area of 4,339 square kilometers and a population of 237,744 in 1960.

Although few good roads connect the coastal towns and the regions in the hinterlands, buses make regular trips from the Municipality of Arteche in the north to Guiuan in the southern tip of this province. The Wright-Taft roadway links Eastern Samar with Western Samar through the southern portion of the island.

Eastern Samar was the first area of the Philippines sighted by Magellan on March 16, 1521. The lofty mountains of Zamal (called by Magellan's crew) are the mountain ranges that separate the province from Western Samar and Northern Samar. The Spaniards, however, anchored at the tiny island of Homonhon on the southern side of the province.

During the early days of Spanish rule, the Province of Samar (of which Eastern Samar was a part) was called "Ibabao." It was under the political and ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Cebu. Borongan, Sulat and Balangiga were then the fabulous centers of religious activities. Borongan was also a center of trade and a military outpost of Spain in the Pacific Ocean during the Spanish rule.

In 1649, the Sumoroy rebellion broke out in Palapag, on the northern part of Samar. In Sulat and Dolores, the people rose in defiance against the Spaniards. The natives fortified themselves in the mountains and, in the skirmishes, they were usually victorious.

Samar was made a separate province from Cebu in 1768. From its capital, Catbalogan, the administration of the *encomiendas* in the eastern coast was controlled.

In 1931, Borongan Bridge was built and public schools were constructed at Balangiga, Borongan and Guiuan, as part of the aid for schools, by virtue of Act No. 3823 of the Philippine Legislature, approved on June 11, 1931.

During the American liberation of the Philippines, the United States Forces, Sixth Army, made Homonhon, MacArthur and Guiuan as army depots.

On May 8, 1967, the province was divided through Republic Act No. 4867, which was introduced by Congressmen Eladio T. Balite of Northern Samar and Felipe Abrigo of Eastern Samar. The province was also divided into three engineering districts to conform with the Congressional Zoning law of the province. Then, three positions of division superintendents of schools were created to facilitate school supervision. The church, due to the size administered by one bishop and the increase of population, also created a new diocese by dividing the province into two diocesan areas, one with center at Calbayog and the other at Borongan.

Eastern Samar became a province after a plebiscite was held during the general elections of 1965. Since then, there has been a steady growth of commercial and industrial activities, transportation and communication utilities, health facilities, and the general life of the people.

The province has a rugged surface, and a constant rainfall from November to February, and the least rains during May and June. Due to its geographical position, the province suffers very often from violent and destructive storms in September and October.

Coconut growing is the leading industry of the people. They also raise cacao, tobacco, camote, rice and corn for local and regional needs. From the forest, they get logs, rattan, dyebark, nipa and firewood. Fishing, cattle and poultry raising are also their important industries. Guiuan, Mercedes and Borongan are noted for cattle, while Oras and Borongan excel in poultry and swine breeding, respectively.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR

The Province of Eastern Samar was created under R.A. 4221 on June 19, 1965.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Eastern Samar

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Upper Portion</i> | — the rising sun to denote the east, Eastern Samar being one of the easternmost provinces in the country.   |
| <i>Lower Portion</i> | — galleon signifies the landing of Magellan, his first on Philippine soil, on the island of Homonhon which is now a part of the province (island depicted at left). |
| <i>Coconut Tree</i>  | — depicts the main industry of the province and the main source of livelihood of its people.  |



**CAMIA**  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR

THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR occupies practically one third of the northern portion of Samar, the third largest island of the Philippine Archipelago. It has a total land area of 3,498.0 square hectares. The boundaries are the Pacific Ocean on the east, the San Bernardino Strait on the north, Samar Sea on west, and Samar (Western) on the south. The San Bernardino Strait separates it from the Province of Sorsogon. In 1970, its estimated population was 306,114 persons.

Between 1599 and 1605, the Jesuits established a mission residence in Palapag, among the Ibabao populace. These missionaries stayed until 1768 when they were expelled from the Philippines and were replaced by the Franciscans. Despite frequent Muslim piratical raids and depredations, the mission residence flourished and the other villages in the Ibabao region were swiftly evangelized.

As the San Bernardino Strait was along the route of the Spanish galleons plying between Manila and Acapulco, a royal port was established in Palapag where the richly-laden Manila galleons were protected from unfavorable winds and troubled seas.

In 1649, shipbuilders were drafted from Palapag to the Cavite shipyards for the construction of galleons and vessels for the conservation and defense of the islands. The same year, these recruits ignited the Sumoroy insurrection which signalled a general uprising against Spain in the Visayas and Mindanao. The insurrection simultaneously flared northward to Albay and southward to the northern coast of Mindanao, in the provinces of Caraga and Iligan, from wher it reached Cebu. It took over a year before the Spaniards were able to quell the rebellion.

Later in 1898, when the Americans landed on the beach of Catarman, the organized revolutionary army under Colonel Narciso Abuke (by authority of General Vicente Lukban) fought the cannons and rifles of the invaders with only bolos and *paltiks*. Although defeated, they, however, continued to harass the American forces through guerrilla warfare.

During World War 1, the people of Northern Samar organized a platoon of volunteers which was supported by volun-

tary contributions. The contingent became a part of the Philippine National Guard in Manila. The province also helped the government by purchasing a considerable amount of bonds which were floated to finance the National Commission for Independence, then organized by Manuel L. Quezon after a coalition of the *Nacionalista* and *Democrata* parties was formed.

After the surrender of Bataan in January 1942, four intrepid guerrilla organizations operated in Samar: the 93rd Infantry Division, USAFFE, organized by Lt. Sevillano and Capt. V. Merritt in Catarman had the widest area of command; the Philippine Guerrilla Forces formed by ex-governor Pedro Arteche (then representative of the second district of Samar) had its headquarters in barrio San Andres, Villareal; and two other units founded by Major Vicente Valley in Guiuan and by Major Luciano Albia in Basey.

Authored by Congressmen Eladio T. Balite of Northern Samar and Felipe J. Abrigo of Eastern Samar, *Republic Act No. 4221* was approved in 1963. The law, overwhelmingly ratified in a plebiscite on November 9, 1965, divided Samar into three, namely, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, and Western Samar. Two years later, in the election of November 14, 1967, the first officials of Northern Samar were elected and on January 1, 1968, they officially assumed office as its first provincial officials.

The province is composed of twenty-three municipalities, namely, Allen, Beri, Bobon, Catarman, Catubig, Capul, Gamay, Lapinig, Laoang, Las Navas, Lavesares, Mapanas, Mondragon, Palapag, Pambujan, Rosario, San Antonio, San Isidro, San Roque, San Vicente, Silvino Lubos, San Jose and Victoria.

Although not fully developed, Northern Samar has historical landmarks and beauty spots nowhere seen in the Archipelago: Tamburuan Beach, White Beach in Catarman, Onay Beach and Batag lighthouse in Laoang, Pinipisacan Falls in Las Navas, the rocks and cave between Palapag and Gamay, Rosario Hotsprings, in Victoria Falls, the University of Eastern Philippines, the stretch of the Philippine Superhighway from Allen to San Isidro, and the tall stone towers in Capul and Palapag which used to be lookouts for Muslim pirates.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR

The Province of Northern Samar was created under R.A. 4221 on June 19, 1965.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Northern Samar



ILANG-ILANG  
*Provincial Flower*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Circular Form and Golden Rim</i>         | — signifies the continuous flow of wealth in the province.                                    |
| <i>Letter "S" at the Inner Circle</i>       | — represent the physical, historical and economic features of the province.                   |
| <i>Letter "N" at the Upper Curve of "S"</i> | — recalls the physical and historical features of the province.                               |
| <i>Blue Triangles</i>                       | — shows the economic feature of the province—its coconut, logging, abaca and rice industries. |
| <i>Blue Portion</i>                         | — stands for the fact that Northern Samar was originally a part of Samar.                     |
| <i>Red Portion</i>                          | — stands for the word "northern".   |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR

SAMAR, occupying the southwestern part of Samar Island, is bounded on the north by Northern Samar, on the east by Eastern Samar, on the south by the Leyte Gulf, and on the west by the Samar Sea.

Samar has a land area of 5,591.0 square kilometers. It had a population of 442,244 in 1970.

As an agricultural province, the most important products are coconut, rice, corn and camote. Timber is gathered from its forests. Fishing is also an important economic activity in the coastal towns.

On March 16, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan landed in the small island of Humunu or Homonhon, near Samar.

The Jesuit missionaries established their mission sites in Samar in 1596.

Samar waged one of the biggest local revolts recorded in Philippine history. Led by Sumuroy in 1649, the people of Palapag and Pambujan resented the recruitment of the natives for forced labor in the Cavite shipyards, and the excessive collection of tributes.

During the early days of the Spanish colonial administration, Samar Island was under the jurisdiction of the bishopric of Cebu.

In 1735, Samar and Leyte were merged to form one province with Carigara in Leyte as the capital. Three years later, Samar was separated from Leyte and Catbalogan became its capital.

During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, General Vicente Lukban organized the provincial revolutionary government in

Catbalogan on December 10, 1898.

With the arrival of the American forces aboard nine warships at Maqueda Bay in Catbalogan on January 27, 1900, the Filipino forces, instead of surrendering after the 12-hour American ultimatum, set Catbalogan on fire and fled to the hills. Later, on February 27, 1902, the Americans captured General Vicente Lukban.

On July 5, 1902, a secret organization led by Enrique Daghob and Antonio Anugar attempted to overthrow the local government of Gandara but they failed.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Samar on May 24, 1942. Cayetano Lucero was installed governor of the wartime-provincial government.

An allied Intelligence Bureau under Major James Smith started the liberation of Samar from the Japanese forces. On December 19, 1944, the American Liberation Forces repulsed the Japanese invaders.

Republic Act No. 4221, passed on June 19, 1965, created the Province of Western Samar, out of the towns located at the western portion of Samar Island. However, R.A. No. 5650 changed the name of Western Samar to Samar on June 21, 1969.

The Blanca Aurora Falls and the ruins of Bongahon in Gandara are famous beauty spots of the province. The Sohotan Caves of Basey, rich in archaeological remains, is a noted tourist attraction of Samar. Basey is also famous for the manufacture of beautifully designed mats. Moreover, in the town of Basey the northern end of the 2.16-kilometer-long San Juanico Bridge starts and spans down south to the Province of Leyte.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF SAMAR

The Province of Samar was created under R.A. 4221 on June 19, 1965.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Samar

*Upper Left Portion* — mining helmet and tools, to signify mining as an important industry.

*Lower Left Portion* — symbol for coconut industry, another important source of income of the province.

*Upper Right Portion* — logs representing another principal industry of the province.

*Lower Right Portion* — represents the bountiful fishing industry of Samar.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BASILAN

THE PROVINCE OF BASILAN is separated from Mindanao by the Basilan Strait on the northeast, the Celebes Sea on the south, the Moro Gulf on the east, and the Sulu Sea on the west. The total land area of the island province, including the adjacent islands, is 1,359 square kilometers.

The province embraces the entire Island of Basilan, the municipal districts of Lamitan, Maluso and the new municipality of Isabela which presently composes the remaining barrios and sitios of the former town of Isabela. The towns, including the previously constituted municipalities of Maluso and Lamitan, are Lantawan, Sumipsip, Tipo-Tipo, Tuburan, Tapiantana, Malamawi and Pilas. In 1895, the island had a population of 1,424, and in 1970, a total of 143,829 inhabitants.

The early settlers of Basilan were the Orang Dampuans, the descendants of the Yakans. In 1637, Governor General Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera made an expedition to Mindanao and captured Lamitan, a stronghold of Sultan Kudarat in the island.

The Jesuit missionaries formally evangelized Basilan in 1644. They, however, withdrew because of the threats of the Lutaus (sometimes called Samals) from the coastal settlements. Later, Father Francisco Lado succeeded in winning their friendship and also expelled the Muslim *panditas* among the Lutaus.

In 1663, Governor General Sabiniano Manrique de Lara withdrew all the troops from Mindanao, including the garrisons of Zamboanga and Basilan, in order to concentrate the forces in Manila against the possible attack of the Chinese warlord, Koxinga. Although the assault did not materialize, the stations in Zamboanga and Basilan were not restored until their re-occupation in 1718. The Dutch attacked Basilan in 1747 but they were repulsed by the natives. On the other hand, the Muslims continued their piratical incursions.

Thus in 1844, Governor General Narciso Claveria ordered the fortification of Basilan. A strong stone fort, called "*Fuerte de Isabela*" in honor of Queen Isabela II of Spain, was constructed.

The French also attempted to occupy Basilan in 1844. But the forces of Datu Ussuk of Maluso firmly resisted and captured the invading sailors. Voicing the displeasure of the French

government, the French Ambassador, Monsieur Lagrene, attacked the principal village of Lamitan. Later, in 1845, a French naval commander proposed for the cession of the Basilan Island for one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00); but the Sultan of Sulu refused the offer.

In 1848, the Spanish government established a military garrison in Basilan and placed it under the control of the governor of Zamboanga. Later in 1854, a company of Spanish soldiers was assassinated by the Muslims due to the imprudence of the governor. The island was then separated from Zamboanga and it became the 6th District of the politico-military government of Mindanao in 1863,

The people of Basilan had its first municipal president in January 1899. But it was short-lived when the American forces established a military government in December of the same year. Datu Pedro Cuevas, leader of the Muslims in the District of Lamitan, helped much in the pacification campaign of the Americans. In 1901, a civil government was re-established and Basilan was again made a part of Zamboanga. The island was divided into three principal districts, Isabela, Lamitan and Maluso.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces organized a puppet government in Isabela and Lamitan. Elpidio Sta. Elena and Teofilo Saavedra became mayors of Isabela and Lamitan, respectively. Immediately, after the American Liberation Forces occupied Basilan, a military government was again established and Leroy S. Brown was named military mayor. Later, the Americans re-established a civil government in Isabela with Pantaleon Bañas as deputy governor.

On July 1, 1948, Republic Act No. 288 created the Province of Basilan into a chartered city. However, on December 27, 1973, Presidential Decree No. 356 created the City of Basilan into the Province of Basilan "to provide the area closer government attention for the purpose of spurring its growth." Another Presidential Decree No. 593, dated December 2, 1974, amended Presidential Decree No. 356. The law not only defined the city territory but also provides that "the capital of the Province of Basilan shall be at the Municipality of Isabela and its seat of government shall be at Barangay Begang."







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



JADE VINE  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF BASILAN

The City of Basilan was created under R.A. 288 on June 16, 1948.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Basilan

<i>Ten Rays</i>	— represents the ten ((10) municipalities of the city.
<i>Left Portion</i>	— depicts the map of Basilan City.
<i>Right Portion</i>	— rubber and coconut trees, major industries of the city.
<i>Bolo or Pira</i>	— symbol of the Yakan aborigines, natives of Basilan.
<i>Year "1973"</i>	— when Basilan Province was created.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SULU

THE ISLAND PROVINCE OF SULU is bounded on the north by the Sulu Sea, on the northeast by the Province of Basilan, on the east and southeast by the Celebes Sea, and on the west by the South China Sea.

Sulu derived its name from the native word "Sug," meaning "current." It is also referred to as Sooloo, Soolooc, Xole, Sojo, Jolo or Sulu.

The early inhabitants of Sulu were the Baranuns in Mainbung, the Taguimaha in Bwansa, and the Baklayanons and Badjaos, who are the ancestors of the Tausogs, the dominant Muslim group in Sulu today.

Sulu had already established commercial relations with China even before Islamic faith was introduced by Karimal Makdum in 1308. He was followed by Rajah Baguinda in 1390, and Sayyid Abubakar in 1450. Better known as Sharif ul-Hashim, Abubakar married the daughter of Baguinda. He became the political ruler of Sulu who made Islam as the state religion.

As early as 1578, Captain Esteban Rodriguez de Figueroa conducted an expedition against the Muslims. This started the series of wars between the Spaniards and the Muslims. The "Moros," as they were referred to by the Spaniards, retaliated by pillaging the coastal towns of the Visayas and Luzon under the Spanish control.

In 1878, the Sultan of Sulu leased the remaining portions in Borneo to Baron von Overbeck representing the British North Borneo Company.

Sulu did not participate in the Philippine Revolution of 1896. In May, 1899, the American administration sent Gen. John C. Bates to negotiate a treaty with the Sultan of Sulu, wherein the Muslims and the Americans would coexist harmoniously. The Bates Treaty in August of the same year recognized the sovereignty of the Sultan, the free exercise of Islam, and respect for Islamic traditions.

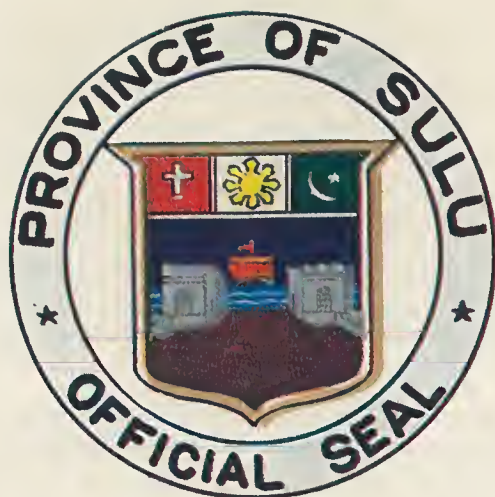
During World War II, the Muslims guerrilla units were also organized in the region. The guerrillas of the Sulu Command Area under Lieutenant Colonel Alejandro Suarez facilitated the landing of the American forces in Tawi-Tawi, Siasi and Jolo in 1945.

In 1947, the Philippine Government succeeded in the acquisition of the island of Taganak, Bakkungan, Bauyna, Sibaug and Lihiman, which were leased by the Sultan to the British North Borneo Government.

In 1973, the provincial jurisdiction of Sulu was diminished when Presidential Decree Nos. 303 and 356 created the provinces.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF SULU

The Province of Sulu was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Sulu

<i>Sun and Eight Rays</i>	— symbolic of the Philippine Sun and the first eight (8) provinces which revolted against the Spanish Government.	<i>Crescent</i>	and Islam (star and crescent).
<i>Cross, Star and</i>	— symbols for Christianity (Cross)	<i>Sailing Vinta</i>	— portrays the sea and marine products as main sources of livelihood.
		<i>Two Towers</i>	— replicas of Spanish forts.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI

THE PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI, composed of the Cagayan de Sulu Islands, the Turtle Islands, and the Tawi-Tawi island groups, is surrounded by the Sulu Sea on the north and west, and the Celebes Sea on the east and south.

Although storms do not visit the province, heavy rains and squalls cause the high waves in the capes and channels of the islands. Its mountains, including Dromedary in Tawi-Tawi, are low.

Due to volcanic eruptions, the soil is fertile and suited to the raising of rice, coconut and tropical fruits. The important industries of the province are fishing, boat building, lumbering, cattle raising, pottery, and mat and basket weaving. Turtle eggs are gathered in the Turtle Islands and *Tapioca* is produced in Cagayan de Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

The region, now the Province of Tawi-Tawi, was for some time controlled by Great Britain. As early as January 28, 1761, Sultan Muizz ud-Din entered into an agreement with Alexander Dalrymple of the British East India Company for commercial and economic concessions. The subsequent treaties with Muizz ud-Din on September 12, 1762 and with Sultan Azim ud-Din, claimant to the Sultanate and a prisoner of the British in Manila, on February 23, 1763, confirmed these British claims. However, on March 5, 1775, Datu Teteng annihilated the British troops in Balambangan. Since then, the Muslims not only fought the British soldiers but also the Spanish troops. After the brother of Sultan Aliyud-Din I captured the Spanish ship, *San Jose*, in Tawi-Tawi, the British forces withdrew from Balambangan in 1805.

On January 28, 1878, Baron von Overbeck, representing the British Borneo Company, signed a treaty with Sultan Jamalul Alam for the lease of the Sultan's land in Borneo at an annual rent of \$5,000 Mexican dollars. The Germans also asked for commercial concessions. Due to foreign encroachments, the Spaniards constructed a naval base at Tata'an and built garrisons in Bongao and Siasi.

On March 7, 1885, Spain, Britain and Germany signed a protocol in Madrid, whereby Spain relinquished all her claims to the offshore lands in Borneo, granted freedom of trade and navigation in Sulu, and Britain and Germany recognized the Spanish sovereignty over Balabac and Cagayan de Sulu. However, the British diplomatically continued to pay the annual rents for Sabah (Sultan's land in Borneo) to Harun ar-Rashid.

During the Philippine Revolution of 1896, the mutiny of the 68th Regiment at Busbus, Jolo, implicated Tagalog soldiers. The Muslims, however, retained their own views on independence and freedom.

When the American forces occupied Jolo on May 19, 1899, they established garrisons at Bongao and Siasi after the Muslims wiped out the Spanish garrison in Tata'an, Tawi-Tawi. In 1900, the United States entered into a treaty with Spain whereby Sibu and Cagayan de Sulu were ceded to the former for \$100,000. The Sultanate continued to receive the rentals for Sabah until 1946 when the British Company sold its rights to the British Crown.

During World War II, after the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Tawi-Tawi, guerrilla forces were organized under Lts. Konglamtio and Alejandro Tresperes in Siasi and Tawi-Tawi. These units were under the Sulu Command led by Lt. Col. Alejandro Suarez. The Command aided the American Liberation Forces at Sanga-Sanga Island on April 2, 1945.

On October 16, 1947, the offshore lands of Borneo—Taganak, Bakkungan, Bayaua, Sibauang and Lihiman Islands—were turned over to the Philippines by the British North Borneo government. The unveiling ceremonies of the marker in Taganak Island, on June 26, 1948, were attended by M. G. Combe, representing Great Britain, former President Diosdado Macapagal for the Philippines, Princess Tarhata Kiram for the Sultanate, and Governor Kalinangan Calauag for Sulu.

On September 27, 1973, Tawi-Tawi Province was created with Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon as its first governor.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI

The Province of Tawi-tawi was created under Presidential Decree no. 341 on September 27, 1973.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Tawi-tawi

#### *Oyster*

—the great Jameson (*pinctada maxim*) variety of oyster which produces costly pearls—symbolizes how precious the province is to its people.

#### *Islets*

—the islands that comprise Tawi-tawi.

#### *Central Features*

—coconut tree, sailing vinta, oil derrick and eucheuma laurels, all of which represent the main industries of the province.

#### *Year "1973"*

—the year when the province was created.



ORCHID  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, on the northwestern portion of Mindanao, is bounded by the Sulu Sea on the north and west, Zamboanga del Sur on the south, and Misamis Occidental on the east.

The province has a land area of 6,075.2 square kilometers and a population of 409,379 in 1970. The most important crops are coconut, rice, corn, banana and mango.

As early as 1565, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi visited the town of Dapitan (one of the oldest towns in the Philippines) which was founded by the settlers from Bohol.

Zamboanga, as a center of Spanish activity in Mindanao, was subjected to continuous Muslim raids. The Spaniards, on the other hand, conducted their expeditions against their foes from the place. In 1636, the governor of Zamboanga, accompanied by Jesuit Fathers Pedro Gutierrez and Melchor de Vera, defeated Tagal, brother of the Sultan of Mindanao, off the coast of *Punta de Flecha*. About 300 Muslims and their famous "admiral" perished in the battle. In 1662, the Spanish garrison in Zamboanga was abandoned and the troops were recalled to Manila.

In order to strengthen the Spanish position in Zamboanga and the neighboring region, three companies of Zamboanga volunteers were organized in 1832. These natives, together with the Spanish troopers stationed in Zamboanga, admirably defended the province from the Muslims.

The province was known as a "*corregimiento*" of Zamboanga. In 1837, the government was changed to a "*gobierno militar*."

Zamboanga was one of the seven districts into which Mindanao and Sulu were divided at the end of Spanish rule. The town of Zamboanga was the capital of Mindanao since the Spanish regime, except the period between 1872 and 1875, when

the general government was at Cotabato.

In 1897, a rebellion broke out in Zamboanga under the leadership of Isidro Midel and Melanio Ramos. A year later, in 1898, the Philippine Revolutionary Government appointed General Vicente Alvarez as general of the revolutionary forces in the region. Alvarez attacked the Spanish forces which were concentrated in Zamboanga, and finally took possession of the province.

The American forces organized Zamboanga as one of the districts of the Moro province. In 1914, a civil government was established under the Department of Mindanao and Sulu. Later, under the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes, Zamboanga became one of the regularly constituted provinces of the department.

During World War II, the Japanese forces landed in Zamboanga on March 2, 1942. The enemy was twice repulsed by a detachment of Filipino troops under Lt. Abdul Hasin Uddin before they finally entered Zamboanga City. After the Japanese had occupied the province, their garrison was subjected to a number of raids by the Filipino troops. On March 28th of the same year, a company of constabulary troops led by Capt. Alejandro attacked the garrison and caused heavy casualties on the enemy.

Under Republic Act No. 711, approved on June 6, 1952, Zamboanga was divided into two provinces: Zamboanga del Norte with Dipolog as the capital, and Zamboanga del Sur with Pagadian as the capital.

Some of Zamboanga del Norte's historical landmarks and beautiful spots are: the Dapitan Rizal Shrine, the Rizal Park and the Rizal concrete marker at Dapitan City; the Wooden Holy Cross planted near the seashore in Dapitan City; the capitol building in Dipolog; the Roman church of Dipolog; and the Dipolog Airport.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



ORCHID  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

The Province of Zamboanga del Norte was created under R.A. 711 on June 6, 1952.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Zamboanga del Norte

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Sea Horses</i>        | — signifies that the province has vast sea resources.   |
| <i>Fruit</i>             | — the durian, a fruit of rare quality which the province is noted for.  |
| <i>Sailboat or Vinta</i> | — symbolic of the vast water area of the province where the swift sailing <b>vinta</b> is a common sight either for transportation, fishing or for other productive purposes. |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, formerly a part of the old Province of Zamboanga, is bounded on the north by the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, on the south by the Moro Gulf, on the northeast by the Province of Lanao del Sur, and on the west by Zamboanga City.

Its coastline, irregular with many indentions, has many coves and harbors which are usually three to seventeen fathoms deep. There are many bays in the province, some of them are the Dumanquilas and Sibuguey Bays (the biggest), the Tagawan, Bisan, Taba, Locsico, Tantanang, Maligay, Malubug, Dupulisan and Pagadian. The Kumalarang, Sibuguey, Dinas and Labangay Rivers, in whose deltas are the important towns of the province, drain the broad and flat coastal lands.

Zamboanga del Sur has a land area of 9,922.1 square kilometers. It had a population of 80,932 in 1903, 90,078 in 1918, 217,135 in 1939, 354,241 in 1948, 742,404 in 1960, and 1,033,164 in 1970.

The climate of the province is delightful and invigorating. Its rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year. Strong winds and storms seldom visit the region. On the fertile land grows luxuriantly rubber, corn, rice, abaca, and coconut. Lumbering, gold and coal mining, and fishing are important sources of livelihood of the people.

The region now called Zamboanga del Sur was earlier known by different names, as "Sibuguey," "Sibugay" or "Sibuguei." Being a part of the empire of Cachil Corralat or Kudarat, it was referred to as "the storehouse for Corralat" during the early part of the Spanish conquest of Mindanao and Sulu.

The Spanish culture influenced the province only after Tagal

was defeated in the famous battle at *Punta de Fletchas* in the Dumanquilas Bay on December 22, 1637.

In 1642, the Jesuits extended their missionary work from Iligan to Zamboanga del Sur. Father Alexandro Lopez started the mission at Sibuguey. In 1644, however, the friars abandoned their church in the province.

The expeditions of Fernando de Bodabilla in January 1657 and Francisco de Esteybar in 1658, did not abate the strife between the Muslims and the Christians. These bloody clashes were carried down to the close of the Spanish rule.

From 1860 to the end of the Spanish era, Zamboanga del Sur was an integral part of the old Zamboanga Province.

In 1938, the Christian settlers founded Molave and in 1941 the town of Aurora.

During World War II, in 1942, the Japanese forces occupied some parts of the province but many of them withdrew to central Mindanao in 1945.

Under Republic Act No. 286, approved on June 16, 1948, Molave was made a municipality and at the same time the capital of the province. Later, in 1952, R.A. No. 711, approved on June 6, 1952, created Zamboanga del Sur as a regular province with its capital at Pagadian. By virtue of R.A. No. 5478, dated June 21, 1969, Pagadian became a chartered city and retained as the provincial seat of government.

The municipalities of Zamboanga del Sur, as originally constituted under R.A. No. 711, are Molave, Aurora, Labangan, Pagadian, Dimataling, Margosatubig, Ipil, Kabasalan, Dinas, Malangas (sic) and Alicia.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

The Province of Zamboanga del Sur was created under R.A. 711 on June 6, 1952.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Zamboanga del Sur

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>Trees</i>    | — represent the vast area of forested lands existing at the time of the creation of the province. |
| <i>Fish</i>     | — represents the rich fishing resources and potential of the province.                            |
| <i>Fruits</i>   | — symbolize the agricultural potential of the province.   |
| <i>Vinta</i>    | — common emblem for territories within the Muslim belt, especially in Southern Mindanao.          |
| <i>Logs</i>     | — signifies that the province is a leading supplier of logs and lumber materials in the country.  |
| <i>Minerals</i> | — symbolize the vast mining potentials of the province.   |



SANTAN  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE

THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE is bounded on the east by the Province of Surigao del Norte, on the west by the Province of Misamis Oriental, on the north by Butuan Bay, and on the south by the Province of Agusan del Sur.

It has a land area of 2,590.3 square kilometers. Its lush and virgin forests are perennial sources of timber while the cultivated areas are utilized for rubber plantations and the grasslands for cattle raising. From its deep humus soil, like Agusan del Sur, the province produces rice, abaca, coconut and papaya.

In 1970, the population of Agusan del Norte was 278,053. It has a high rate of literacy, with Cebuano as the major dialect. The Samar-Leyte, Hiligaynon and Tagalog dialects are also spoken in the region.

Most of the inhabitants are occupied in agriculture, hunting and forestry while the others are engaged in manufacturing and commerce. The people are also engaged in fishing at Butuan Bay for export and local consumption.

Agusan del Norte was formerly a part of the old province of Agusan, which was a politico-military *comandancia* of the province of Surigao during the Spanish colonial administration. It was then referred to as the "Manobo Country." The Manobos are the Muslims who inhabit the present sites of Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

Agusan, like the other provinces of the Visayas and Luzon, also took up arms against Spain. The revolutionists were led by Lieutenant Colonels Comte, Gumersiendo Flores, Andres Atega, Francisco Martinez, Luis Cassion and Timoteo Calo.

The old province was separated from the province of

Surigao by Act No. 1306 which was passed by the Philippine Legislature in 1914. Frederick Johnson was appointed as the first governor of the province. In March 1922, the first provincial elections were held and Apolonio Curato was elected provincial governor.

During the Pacific War, from 1941 to 1945, Captain Luis P. Morgan, a Philippine Constabulary Officer, initiated the organization of guerrilla units in Mindanao. In February 1943, Lieutenant Colonel Wendell Fertig was appointed by General Douglas MacArthur (then in Australia) as commanding officer of the 10th Military District, effective March 1, 1943. Its units later successfully attacked a Japanese garrison at Butuan.

On June 17, 1967, Republic Act No. 4979 divided the old province of Agusan into Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur. Del Norte comprises the municipalities of Carmen, Nasipit, Buenavista, Cabadbaran, Tubay, Jabonga, Kitcharao, Las Nieves and the capital city of Butuan. The almost aristocratic Butuan City is the nerve center of commercial, industrial and cultural activities not only of the province but also of Northern Mindanao.

The tourist spots of Agusan del Norte are the Dagani Beach Resort in Cabadbaran, the Ata-atahon Beach Resort in Nasipit, the Bulihan Beach Resort in Carmen, and the Lake Mainit in Jabonga.

A marker installed in Barrio Magallanes of Butuan City claims that the first mass was celebrated in that place; however, Antonio Pigafetta, chronicler of Ferdinand Magellan's voyage, stated that it was Easter Sunday, the last day of March 1521 when the first mass was held in Limasawa, an island off the coast of Southern Leyte.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE

The Province of Agusan del Norte was created under R.A. 4979 on June 17, 1967.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Agusan del Norte

- Silhouette of the Lower Portion of a Tree* — lauau tree, symbolic of the lumber industry which propelled Agusan to development.
- Coconut Trees* — depict the old and still growing coconut industry.
- Banana Trees* — stand for banana as the other up and coming major product of the province.
- Bottom Level of Tree* — an arrangement of a Manobo brass shield, two crosses Manobo spears

### *Center Level*

against a multi-folded Manobo garment, colored red, green, yellow and black—symbolic of cultural beginnings of the province.

— a factory representing the thriving wallboard, lumber and forest products industries.

### *Top Level*

— symbolic of mining operations along the rich lodes of Diwata Range.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR

THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, in the east central portion of Mindanao, is bounded by the Province of Agusan del Norte on the north, Davao del Norte on the south, the mountain ranges of Surigao on the east, and the Bukidnon Plateaus on the west.

It has a land area of 8,965.5 square kilometers, consisting of 13 municipalities.

In 1970, the population of Agusan del Sur was 174,682. Sixty-seven percent of the populace speak Cebuano and the remaining in various dialects such as the Manobo, Hiligaynon, Samar-Leyte, Ilocano and Tagalog.

Three-fourths of its working class are farmers, fishermen, hunters and loggers engaged in agriculture, fishing, hunting, and forestry. The other are draftsmen, laborers, and service workers.

During the last decades of the Spanish colonial administration, the old province of Agusan was a politico-military *comandancia* of Butuan, a part of the Province of Surigao. The present sites of the two Agusan provinces were sometimes referred to as the land of the Manobos because these Muslims inhabited the northeastern portion of Mindanao.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, the people of Agusan also took up arms against Spanish rule. They were led by Lieutenant Colonels Comte, Gumersiando Flores, Andres Atega, Francisco Martinez, Luis Cassion and Timoteo Calo.

Under Act No. 1306, passed by the Philippine Legislature in September 1914, the former province of Agusan was made independent. The first appointed provincial governor was Frederick Johnson and the first elected, in the provincial elections in March 1922, was Apolonio Curato.

During the Second World War, a unit of the Philippine and the United States defense troops was located at Namot, Talacogon, in the interior of the Agusan Valley. The site was provided with installations, one of which was a library which furnished the much-needed information concerning the progress of the war in Europe and the Pacific.

In 1966, Congressman Jose C. Aquino drafted House Bill No. 727 which eventually became Republic Act No. 4979, approved on June 17, 1967. The law divided Agusan into two, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur, in order "to extend equal attention to all portions of the province and to hasten the economic, social and educational development of the vast, rich province. . . ."

Agusan del Sur was finally proclaimed independent on January 5, 1968. The municipalities of the province are Bayugan, San Francisco, Sta. Josefa, Talacogon, Loreto, Bunawan, Veruela, La Paz, and the capital town of Prosperidad.

The province has a high literacy rate. In Prosperidad, a branch of the Philippine Normal College serves as training ground for teachers. A fast growing region, Agusan del Sur still deserves to be a part of the land "where the water flows."







*Provincial Seal*



SANTAN  
(*Ixora Finlaysoniana*)  
*Provincial Flower*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR

The Province of Agusan del Sur was created under R.A. 4979 on June 17, 1967.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Agusan del Sur

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Malayan Letter-Style</i>                 | — symbolizes cultural linkage with the Malayan Race.   |
| <i>Thirteen Yellow Stars</i>                | — represent the thirteen (13) municipalities of the province.  |
| <i>Two Blue Stars</i>                       | — peaceful co-existence between the natives and the christians.  |
| <i>Body Dividing Coat-of-Arms</i>           | — represents the mighty and navigable Agusan River.  |
| <i>Corn</i>                                 | — primary product of the province.   |
| <i>Shield and Spear with Red Background</i> | — signifies the tribal wars during the pre-hispanic times among the natives commonly known as Manobos. |
| <i>Trees</i>                                | — depicts logging potential of the province.   |
| <i>Wheel and Factory</i>                    | — the vast natural resources of Agusan del Sur.  |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON

BUKIDNON, a landlocked region, is the fourth largest province in Mindanao. It is bounded on the north and northwest by Misamis Oriental, on the east by Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur, on the south by North Cotabato, and on the west by Lanao del Sur.

Composed of 19 municipalities, Bukidnon has a land area of 8,293.8 square kilometers and a population of 414,762 in 1970.

Before the Spaniards colonized Misamis Oriental in northern Mindanao, the Visayan settlers had already established themselves in the province. As the settlers kept coming, the tribes who originally inhabited the area were driven inland toward the rugged and mountainous territory. They were eventually called "Bukidnons," meaning "people of the mountains," from which the place derived its name.

In 1849, at the time of Governor Narciso Claveria, about fifteen settlements were formed in the Tagoloan Valley and Plateau districts. In 1880, the Jesuits conducted a program of resettlement and Christianization of the inhabitants. The missionaries supplied them with tools and taught them how to cultivate coffee, cacao, corn and hemp.

At the end of the Spanish rule, the districts of Misamis, of which Bukidnon was formerly a part, was ruled by an army officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Bukidnon came under the control of the revolutionary government in December 1899.

During the Filipino-American War, the remnants of the Filipino revolutionary forces who retreated from Misamis under the command of Gen. Nicolas Capistrano were reactivated

in the jungles of Bukidnon. In 1901, Bukidnon finally surrendered to the American forces.

In 1907, after the establishment of the American civil government, the Province of Agusan was created, and Bukidnon became its subprovince. Frederick Lewis was appointed lieutenant governor of the subprovince. With the help of Manuel Fortich, Sr., Lewis reestablished old villages, developed agriculture, opened schools, and introduced a new idea of government.

In 1909, Lewis was appointed governor of Agusan and Fortich, Sr., lieutenant governor of Bukidnon. When the Department of Mindanao and Sulu was created in September 1914, Bukidnon became an independent province with Fortich, Sr., as its governor.

In 1942, during World War II, guerrilla forces were organized in the province. Lt. Col. Robert Bowler formed the 109th Division in Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro. Salipada Pendatun led the 117th Infantry which exercised authority over the Bukidnon-Cotabato area.

After the war, government resettlement areas were established to accommodate people from the different regions. The settlers were primarily from Cebu, the Ilocos region, and Panay.

Aside from the vast lands planted with millions of pine-apples located in Sankanán, Damilag, Libona and Tankulan, the scenic spots are the seven plateaus of varying heights—like huge tables separated from one another by seven deep canyons and the three valleys; the seven mountains that rise from plateaus; the winding roads in Mangima; and the Kulaman Canyon.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON

The Province of Bukidnon was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Bukidnon

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Two Big Trees</i>  | — picture the thick forests of the province.                                  |
| <i>Three Orchids</i>  | — symbolize the rich flora of Bukidnon.                                       |
| <i>Bull and Cow</i>   | — represent the cattle industry of the province.                              |
| <i>Rice Paddies</i>   | — symbol of the lowland rice production in the central part of the province.  |
| <i>Mountain Range</i> | — stands for the many mountain ranges and the high elevation of the province. |
| <i>Iron Crosses</i>   | — symbol of christianity that has been embraced by its people.                |



**RUBIA**  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAMIGUIN

CAMIGUIN is separated in the south by Gingoog Bay and Macajalar Bay from the coast of northern Mindanao, and in the north by the Mindanao Sea from Bohol.

The island was once a part of the vast empire of Sultan Cachil Corralat, known today as Sultan Dipatuan Kudarat (or Kudrat), the powerful ruler of Mindanao and Sulu during the seventeenth century.

Guinsiliban was its first known settlement ruled by Datu Salampang. The original inhabitants were the Bukidnons who retreated to the hinterlands of Mindanao or settled in the other parts of the island when the Visayans came.

On March 11, 1565, Legazpi's men found the people of Camiguin already trading *cinamons* and other native products for Oriental goods with merchants of the neighboring Asian countries. Thus, when the Recollects arrived in Cagayan de Oro in 1622, Guinsiliban was already a flourishing settlement.

From the 18th century to the early 19th century, Camiguin, as a part of Misamis, was governed from Cebu. By 1818, Misamis gained its provincial status with Camiguin island as one of the divisions of the Misamis territory called *Partido de Catarman*, composed of Catarman and the villages of Guinsiliban, Mambajao and Sagay.

On January 4, 1855, a special decree separated Mambajao from Catarman and on July 6 of the same year, it was made a municipality, with Father Valero de Sebastian as the first parish priest. Mambajao was destroyed three times by fire (April 1865, September 1868, and 1881). In October 1869, then Spaniards founded the town of Mahinog which became a part of Mambajao in 1902.

The towns of *Partido de Catarman* were frequently subjected to natural calamities. Catarman and Tupsan were destroyed by lava, hot rocks and volcanic ashes due to the eruption of Mt. Vulcan on October 10, 1870; and Catarman, Guinsiliban

and Sagay were overflowed with lava when Mt. Hibok-Hibok erupted in 1951.

In 1899, an American gunboat bombarded Camiguin. After a brief skirmish with the *Los Libertados* under the command of Ricardo Reyes, the inhabitants readily submitted to the American rule. Sporadic clashes, however, continued against the remaining elements of the revolutionary forces, one of which was led by a certain Balero. In September 1901, Balero and his followers were completely annihilated in the Battle of Manduaw which ended the resistance in the island.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces under Lt. Kuburi attempted to establish a government in Camiguin. The Japanese did not maintain a garrison and no political machinery was firmly setup. The island then became an evacuation center of the families from Cagayan de Oro and the other towns of northern Mindanao.

The American landing in Leyte on October 20, 1944, led to the liberation of Camiguin from the Japanese patrols which used to visit the island.

Camiguin remained a part of Misamis Oriental until June 22, 1957, when Republic Act No. 2021 made the island a sub-province of Misamis Oriental.

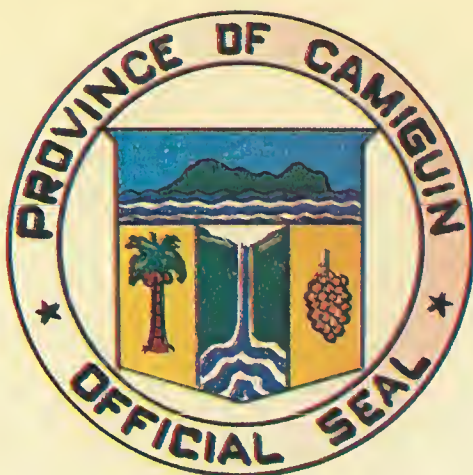
Finally, by virtue of Republic Act No. 4669, approved on June 18, 1966, the island was created as a regular and independent province from Misamis Oriental with the seat of the provincial government in Mambajao.

Camiguin has five municipalities, namely, Catarman, Guinsiliban, Mahinog, Mambajao and Sagay and a population of 36,160 in 1972. The province has a rough terrain planted with abaca and coconut. Its continuous rainfall is heaviest from November to January.

Camiguin Province is ringed with volcanoes, one of which is the active Mt. Hibok-Hibok, a tourist attraction in the south.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF CAMIGUIN

The Province of Camiguin was created under R.A. 4669 on June 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Camiguin

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Five Stars</i>            | — represents the five (5) municipalities of the province; big star at center stands for the capital town. |
| <i>Forty-Eight Oakleaves</i> | — symbolize the forty-eight (48) barrios of the province.   |
| <i>Coconut Trees</i>         | — symbolic of coconut as the major crop of the island province.   |
| <i>Falls</i>                 | — the Katibawasan Falls, main tourist attraction of the island.   |
| <i>Lanzones Bunch</i>        | — Camiguin lanzones, noted for its sweetness.   |
| <i>1968</i>                  | — formal inauguration of Camiguin was in 1968.  |



CADENA DE AMOR  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE

LANA DEL NORTE is bounded on the north by Iligan Bay, on the west by Illana Bay, on the south by Lana del Sur, and on the east by Bukidnon.

The province, with a land area of 3,092.0 square kilometers, is composed of 18 municipalities and one city—Iligan, the capital. In 1970, its estimated population was 349,942 persons.

The first attempt of the Spanish forces to control the territory took place during the administration of Governor General Hurtado de Corcuera. In 1637, Corcuera led an expedition against Sultan Corralat, ruler of Mindanao and Sulu. He arrived in Zamboanga in February 1637 and attacked Corralat's stronghold at Lamitan, on the coast of Lana. The Spaniards captured the Muslim stronghold. Two years later, a decisive campaign was launched into the interior by General Pedro de Almonte, with the cooperation of Alcalde Mayor Francisco de Atienza of Caraga (Surigao).

Spanish power, however, was never established in Lana. After Corcuera's rule, the Maranaws were left to themselves—practically an independent people—constituting several Mohammedan states almost to the end of Spanish rule.

Under the administration of Governor General Valeriano Weyler, a series of campaigns was started to bring the Lana region under government control. In 1891, the Spanish forces occupied Malabang and the other towns along the south coast. Governor General Eulogio Despujol continued the campaigns, but it was later left to Governor General Ramon Blanco who established the Spanish power in the region. The governor landed in 1894 in Iligan with a force under the immediate command of General Parrado who captured, among other Muslim cottas, the stronghold at Marawi, reputed to be the strongest of its kind in Lana.

On October 8, 1895, in pursuance to a gubernatorial decree at Marawi, Lana was organized into a district of Mindanao and Sulu.

In 1896, a few members of a battalion of *disciplinarios* rebelled in Iligan, then a part of Misamis.

In 1903, the Moro Province was established, with Lana as one of its districts. Even with an established government, the *datus* at Bacolod and other cottas were more defiant than before. Thus, General John J. Pershing ordered all his soldiers at Camp Vicars to seize Cotta Bacolod under Datu Panundangan. In the bloody encounter, the fort was razed at the cost of hundreds of Muslim warriors, including nine of their *datus*. In 1914, a civil government was established in the province under the Department of Mindanao and Sulu.

In June 1942, after the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied the Philippines, several guerrilla units under Lt. Col. Luis Morgan of the Philippine Constabulary were organized all over Mindanao. In the area comprising Lana, Zamboanga and Misamis Occidental, Col. Wendell W. Fertig accepted the overall command of the guerrilla units from Morgan in Kolambugan, Lana, on October 7, 1942.

On January 1, 1944, Fertig created a sub-command of Western Mindanao under Lt. Col. Bowler, with headquarters in Lala, Lana. Later it was transferred to Misamis Occidental.

Under Republic Act No. 2228, approved on May 22, 1959, Lana was divided into Lana del Norte and Lana del Sur. The City of Iligan was proclaimed as the capital of Lana del Norte.

In Lana del Norte, the famous Maria Cristina Falls on the Agus River, generates electricity for Iligan and Marawi Cities. The hydroelectric power plant also supplies the industrial needs of the fertilizer plant at Iligan City.

Lake Lana, the deepest and the second largest lake in the Philippines, is also in the province.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE

The Province of Lanao del Norte was created under R.A. 2228 on May 22, 1959.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Lanao del Norte

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Cross and Crescent</i>      | — symbolize the union of two faiths and religious beliefs of its people which Christianity and the Muslim or Islamic Faith, respectively.   |
| <i>Red Background</i>          | — courage and blood in struggle for co-existence.   |
| <i>Falls</i>                   | — beautiful and majestic Maria Cristina Falls, source of power and progress upon which the province and other neighboring provinces depend. |
| <i>Hydro-Electric Plant</i>    | — symbol of man's cultural and economic progress.   |
| <i>Yellow and Green Colors</i> | — reflect the ambitions and hopes of the new generation.  |



SANTAN  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF LANAOS DEL SUR

LANAOS DEL SUR, in the southern portion of the former province of Lanaos, centers around the basin of Lake Lanaos. It is bounded by Lanaos del Norte on the north, the Illana Bay on the west, Cotabato on the south, and Bukidnon on the east.

The province has a land area of 3,872.9 square kilometers. It had a population of 455,508 in 1970, composed mostly of Muslims and Maranaws (or "lake dwellers"), and many Christians.

Francisco de Atienza and the Portuguese Recollect Friar Agustín de San Pedro with the Spanish troops were the first to set foot on Lanaos soil, reaching the lake region on April 4, 1639, in the course of their campaign against Sultan Kudarat, known as Sultan Cachil Corralat, ruler of Mindanao and the Visayas.

The conquest of Lanaos, however, started two years after Governor General Hurtado de Corcuera captured Lamitan on the coast of Mindanao in 1637. In 1639, General Pedro Almonte marched towards the interior region, near Lake Lanaos, and captured the Marawi fortress after heavy fighting. Until the end of the Spanish rule, Lanaos del Sur constituted several Mohammedan areas each ruled by a *datu*.

During the administration of Governor General Valeriano Weyler, several campaigns were made to bring Lanaos del Sur under the Spanish rule. In 1891, Malabang was occupied, but the area was never fully controlled. In 1894, Governor Ramon Blanco, with 3,000 warriors, marched through hostile territories towards Marawi.

In 1895, in pursuance to a gubernatorial decree, Lanaos was made a politico-military government, as the seventh district of Mindanao and Sulu.

In 1903, the Moro Province was established, with Lanaos as one of its districts. General John J. Pershing, at Camp Vicars, thus seized Cotta Bacolod under *Datu* Panundangan. In 1914, the Americans established a civil government under the Department of Mindanao and Sulu. Lanaos became one of the seven provinces of the department.

Several guerrilla units were formed all over Mindanao under Lt. Col. Luis Morgan of the Philippine Constabulary in June 1942. Later, on October 7, 1942, he handed the command to Col. Wendell W. Fertig. On January 1, 1944, Fertig created a sub-command in Western Mindanao with Bowler as leader of the sub-command in Lala, Lanaos. Later, it was transferred to Misamis Occidental.

Under Republic Act No. 2228, approved on May 22, 1959, the Province of Lanaos was divided into two provinces: Lanaos del Norte and Lanaos del Sur. Marawi City became the capital of Lanaos del Sur.

Some of the tourist and educational spots in Lanaos del Sur are Lake Lanaos, the second largest lake in the Philippines and the source of the Maria Cristina Falls; the Muslim mosques (churches) along the lake; an agricultural school in Lumbatan; and the Mindanao State University.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**KALACHUCHI**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF LANA O DEL SUR

The Province of Lanao del Sur was created under R.A. 2228 on May 22, 1959.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Lanao del Sur

#### *Design*

— depicts the Maranao culture: upper portion shows the Sarimanok, the legendary royal bird; lower portion shows outline of Lake Lanao, a mosque and the green vegetation as the background.

#### *Colors*

— gold stands for royalty; red, for courage and bravery; green, for abundance of vegetative plants; blue, for peace; silver, for purity.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL is bounded on the north by the Mindanao Sea, on the east by the Iligan Bay, on the south by the Panguil Bay, and on the west by the eastern portion of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur.

With a land area of 1,939 square kilometers, the province had a population of 319,855 in 1970.

The word "*misamis*" was derived from "*kuyamis*," a variety of sweet coconut, the staple food of the early settlers of the place. "*Kuyamis*" was corrupted to Misamis when the Spanish colonizers came.

The first Spaniards to arrive in Misamis were the Recollect missionaries. In 1574, Fr. Jose Ducos, S.J., built the fort of Misamis (now Ozamiz City) as a base for further offensive against the Muslims.

Misamis used to be a part of the bishopric of Cebu. In 1818, it became a *corregimiento*, comprised of four *partidos*, or divisions: *Partido de Misamis*; *Partido de Dapitan*; *Partido de Cagayan* and *Partido de Catarman*.

During the latter half of the 19th century, Misamis was one of the six districts of Mindanao, and later, one of the seven districts of Mindanao and Sulu at the close of the Spanish era.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, most

of the Recollect missionaries left the place. By December 1898, they completely abandoned their missionary activity in Misamis.

From 1901 to 1930, a majority of the people of Misamis became followers of the Philippine Independent Church.

The civil government was established by the Americans in Misamis on May 15, 1901. Jose Ozamiz was the first elected governor of the province.

During the Second World War, in 1943, the Japanese forces mercilessly killed the inhabitants of the town of Calamba, resulting in the so-called Calamba Massacre. As a consequence, guerrilla units were organized in the province.

After the war, Gideon Quijano was appointed governor of Misamis by President Manuel Roxas.

The main products of the province of rolling hills, low mountains, and fertile coastal area are abaca, coconut, coffee and rice. The people are engaged in fishing, salt-making and pottery. The province has also rich deposits of silica, magnetic iron and sand.

In 1929, Legislative Act No. 3537 divided the old Province of Misamis into Misamis Occidental and Misamis Oriental. The Occidental comprised the towns of Baliangao, Lopez-Jaena, Tudela, Clarin and Misamis (now Ozamiz City).







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

The Province of Misamis Occidental was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Misamis Occidental

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Upper Left Portion</i>         | — stands for the provincial seat of government of the province.  |
| <i>Coconut Tree, Nut and Bolo</i> | — symbol of the coconut as a primary product of the province.  |
| <i>Ricefields and Mountain</i>    | — signify that rice is a principal staple crop; at the background is Mt. Malindang.                          |
| <i>Sea and Sailboat</i>           | — tells that the province is a rich fishing ground particularly at Mindanao Sea, Iligan Bay and Panguil Bay. |
| <i>Diagonal Line</i>              | — shows corn and banana, principal staple crops of Misamis Occidental.                                       |



**GUMAMELA**  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL

MISAMIS ORIENTAL used to be one province with Misamis Occidental. It is bounded on the north by the Mindanao Sea, on the south by Lanao and Bukidnon, on the west by Misamis Occidental, and on the east by Agusan.

The province, with a land area of 3,570.1 square kilometers, is composed of two cities (Cagayan de Oro, the seat of the provincial administration, and Gingoog), four islands (Canauayan, Puluc, Medano and Mantiqi) and 24 municipalities. It had a population of 300,072 in 1948, 343,898 in 1960, and 472,756 in 1970.

Its original inhabitants were the Bukidnons and the Manobos; but they were driven into the interior when the Visayans arrived. Although Misamis is a part of Mindanao, the dialect spoken by the natives is Cebuano.

The *Recoletos* inherited the ministration of Misamis Oriental from the Jesuits in 1768. The mission was under the diocese of Cebu.

In 1818, Misamis was divided into four districts: (1) *Partido de Misamis*, which included the forts of Misamis and Iligan, besides Loculan and Initao; (2) *Partido de Dapitan*, including Dapitan, Lobungan and a number of villages; (3) *Partido de Cagayan*, which included Cagayan and a number of villages, like Iponan, Maligan, Hasaan, and Salay; and (4) the *Partido de Catarman*, on the island of Camiguin.

In 1850, Misamis included the present Province of Bukidnon and the northern part of Cotabato.

At the close of the Spanish era, Misamis constituted one of the seven districts of Mindanao, with Cagayan de Misamis

(now Cagayan de Oro City) as its capital and the towns of Dapitan, Dipolog and Lobungan as its dependents.

The revolutionary forces held Misamis for three months. In May 1901, the Americans established a civil government in the province.

In 1907, Bukidnon was placed under the jurisdiction of the newly created Province of Agusan. Later, in 1914, the Department of Mindanao and Sulu was organized, and Bukidnon was separated from the Province of Agusan.

On November 2, 1929, Act No. 3537 divided the Province of Misamis into two: Misamis Oriental (with the capital at Cagayan de Oro) and Misamis Occidental. Its implementing amendment, Act No. 3777, was adopted on November 28, 1939.

During World War II, in Balingasag, Captain Pedro Collado, a Philippine Constabulary officer, merged all the guerrilla units in Misamis Oriental under the 110th Infantry Division, 10th Military District. The division held the unique distinction of being a heterogeneous unit—composed of Americans, and Christian and Mohammedan Filipinos—all working for the defense of the area and in guarding the northern supply routes of the military district.

Prior to June 22, 1957, Camiguin was one of the islands of Misamis Oriental. Under Republic Act No. 2021, the island was created as a subprovince until June 18, 1966 when Republic Act No. 4669 made it as an independent province.

Misamis Oriental is primarily dependent on its farms for livelihood. Its most important crops are coconut and corn. There are four (4) mining concessions in the province which also improve the economy of the province.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**DAHLIA**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL

The Province of Misamis Oriental was created under Act 2711 on March 10, 1917.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Misamis Oriental

*Coconut, Pineapple and Logs* — connotes that Misamis Oriental is an agricultural province. Majority of the people derive their income from agricultural products, namely, copra, rice and corn.

*Fruits and Vegetables* — crops raised in the province either for local market or export.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE

SURIGAO DEL NORTE, in the northeastern part of Mindanao, is bounded on the north by the Leyte Gulf; on the south by Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte; on the east by the Pacific Ocean; and on the west by the Surigao Strait. It is composed of a portion of the old Surigao Province and the islands of Dinagat, Siargao, Bucas, Grande and many other islets.

The province has a land area of 2,739.0 square kilometers and a population of 238,714 in 1970.

The Port of Loreto in Dinagat Island and the Port of Numancia in Siargao Island are ideal anchorage for vessels.

Although Surigao del Norte faces the Pacific Ocean, it is seldom visited by typhoons. Abaca, coconut, rice and corn are grown in the province. Its important industries are lumbering, fishing and mining. An iron mine operates in the Municipality of Mainit. The largest deposit of nickel in the Philippines is found in Nonoc Island.

Surigao, earlier known as "Siargo" or "Sidargo," was referred to as "Caraga," "Caragha" or "Carhaga" during the Spanish occupation of that portion of Mindanao. It was derived from the Caragas who inhabited the place. In 1543, Ruy Lopez de Villalobos landed on the eastern coast of Mindanao. Bernardo de la Torre, a member of the expedition, named the place Cesarea Caroli, in honor of the reigning monarch of Spain, Charles I, also known as Charles the V of the Holy Roman Empire.

On March 1, 1621, the Recollects administered the districts of Butuan, Sampongan, Caraga, Bislig and Cateel, and the interior of Agusan. On January 29, 1655, Sgt. Manuel Sanchez de la Costa with two priests was given the charge of Sapaso, Cabuntog (now General Luna), Bacuag, Higaquit, Bohor and Surigao.

For sometime, Tandag became the seat of the government until 1848, when the capital was transferred to Surigao. In 1849, the towns of Tandag, Tago, Lianga, Mision de San Juan, Bislig, Hinatuan, Quinablangan, Dapa and Banganga became parts of Davao. These municipalities were later returned to Surigao.

In 1860, Surigao became one of the six districts of Mindanao and Sulu or the East District. As Surigao District in 1870, and one of the seven military districts of Mindanao and Sulu at the close of the 20th century, it included the politico-military *comandancia* of Butuan which was made a part of the Province of Agusan in 1911.

During the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Ramon Visier, the last Spanish governor of Surigao, turned over the government to Manuel Ballori, a *gobernadorcillo* of Surigao who resigned a few days later. Juan Gonzales succeeded him. However, General Prudencio Garcia, who earlier took up arms against the Spanish authorities in Banganga, seized the government. Garcia later unconditionally surrendered the government to the Americans. Civil government was established in Surigao on May 15, 1901.

In 1924, the *Colorums* under the leadership of Francisco Bornales, alias "Lantayug," fortified Tubod and Timama-an. However, a strong force under Captain Bowers shelled and razed Socorro where hundreds of rebels died.

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Surigao on May 23, 1942. Later, in September 1945, the Americans bombed Bilang-bilang Harbor. This was followed by the landing of troops at Desolation Point in the Dinagat Island on October 17, 1945. With the operations of the 110th Division, a guerrilla unit under Colonel Ernest McClish, Surigao was liberated before October 20, 1945.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 2786, approved on June 12, 1960, Surigao del Norte was created. It consists of 27 municipalities with Surigao City as the capital.

The historic and beauty spots of Surigao del Norte are the *Casa Real* in Surigao City, the Nonoc nickel quarries on Nonoc Island, and the Desolation Point on the northern tip of Dinagat Island where the American troops first landed during the liberation on October 17, 1944.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



ORCHID  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE

The Province of Surigao del Norte was created under R.A. 2786 on June 19, 1960.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Surigao del Norte

*Map*

— outline of the map of the province.

*Mining Tools and  
Three Mountains*

— mountains colored yellow, white and gules colors and tools represent the gold, silver and iron resources of Surigao del Norte.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR

SURIGAO DEL SUR, located on the northeastern fringes of Mindanao, is bounded on the north by Surigao del Norte, on the east by the Philippine Sea, on the south by Davao Oriental, and on the west by Agusan del Norte. With a land area of 4,552.2 square kilometers, it had a population of 258,680 in 1970.

Surigao del Sur produces abaca, coconut, rice and corn. Timber and rattan are its important forest resources. The province has enormous deposits of iron, chromite, gold, silica, sand, pyrite and limestone. Point Tugas is said to be the largest iron reservation in the world.

The present Province of Surigao del Sur was originally inhabited by the Tagabaloyes, a tribe closely associated with the Mandayas of eastern Mindanao.

In 1528, the Spanish expedition led by Alvaro de Saavedra reached the eastern coasts of Mindanao, including the present site of Surigao del Sur. In 1543, Ruy Lopez de Villalobos also reached the place, Bernardo de la Torre, a member of the expedition, named the region *Casarea Caroli*, in honor of King Charles I of Spain.

Attempts were made by the Spanish administration to colonize the vast region of Surigao. In 1597, Captain Juan Mendez Poras, with Fray Lorenzo de Facundo and Fray Diego Sta. Ana, conquered the villages of Bislig, Cateel and Banganga. Juan Nicolas and Jacinto de Fulgencio later occupied the regions north of Bislig.

The settlements in Tandag and Ygaquit were established by Father Miguel de Sta. Maria. In Tandag, a fort was built

to safeguard the place against occasional Muslim raids.

In 1674, Bislig and Banganga became one of the largest Recollect mission centers, but these missions were turned over to the Jesuits on May 19, 1864.

Surigao was one of the six districts that formed the District of Surigao in 1870.

At the close of the Spanish era, General Prudencio Garcia, Sr., rose as a prominent political figure in Surigao after the wrested the power from Juan Gonzales and his two sons, Simeon and Wenceslao. In 1901, Garcia unconditionally turned over the government to the Americans.

The American administration established a civil government on May 15, 1901. The resistance movement, however, continued until General Adriano Concepcion was captured in Tubod in 1903.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, an evacuation center was organized at Cortez. In 1944, the Japanese built garrisons, but these were destroyed by the Americans when the latter reoccupied the province during the liberation.

Surigao del Sur was a part of the old Province of Surigao up to June 12, 1960, when Republic Act No. 2786 made it into a separate and independent province.

As a coastal province, Surigao del Sur is noted for its fine beaches: the Bon-Ot beach in Carrascal, the Dalahican and Tamoyas beaches at Point Tugas, the Tambis beach at Cantilan, the Tandag (sic) beach in Tandag, and the Lanuza-Cortez seaside.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**SANTAN**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR

The Province of Surigao del Sur was created under R.A. 2786 on June 19, 1960.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Surigao del Sur

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Map</i>                             | — map of the province etched against the Pacific Ocean.  |
| <i>Right Portion</i>                   | — the three major industries of the province, namely, rice production, logging and mining.                     |
| <i>String of 17 Beads and one Star</i> | — represents the eighteen (18) municipalities of the province. The star stands for the capital town of Tandag. |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF NORTH COTABATO

NORTH COTABATO, formerly a part of the old Province of Cotabato, is bounded on the north by Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon, on the east by Davao del Sur, on the south and southwest by Sultan Kudarat, and on the west by Maguindanao.

About 1515, Shariff Muhammad Kabungsuwan with the Samals, a seafaring people, arrived on the shores of Mindanao. He introduced the Islamic religion and founded the Sultanate of Maguindanao.

In the 16th century, the Spanish *conquistadores* occupied Cotabato and periodically sent expeditionary forces to subdue the Muslims in the surrounding regions. Nevertheless, the Muslims were never completely conquered by the Spaniards.

When the American Forces came, the inhabitants of North Cotabato also fought the new enemy. Peace was restored in the province after Datu Ali was killed at the forest of Damadolian in the district of Buluan, and Datu Alamada surrendered to the American forces.

In 1913, the settlers from Cebu went inland as far as Pikit. In 1918, with the help of Datu Dilangalen, the government established the Bual Settlement Farm School in Midsayap. With the continuous flow of settlers to the province, more settlements, which eventually became municipalities, were organized. Like other nameless settlements, Carmen, north of the Pulangi River, was designated as Lot No. 217 of the Maridagao

Cadastral Survey of 1924, and named after its surveyor, Del Carmen.

Between 1922 and 1937, under the administration of Governor Dionisio Gutierrez, the population increased due to the construction of national highways connecting North Cotabato with the adjoining provinces.

During World War II, the forces of Salipada Pendatun, under Wendel W. Fertig of the 117th Infantry, 10th Military District, United States Forces in the Philippines (USFIP), operated in the Cotabato-Bukidnon area.

On August 18, 1947, Executive Order No. 82 created the municipalities of Kabacan and Kidapawan; on September 29, 1949, Executive Order No. 270 created Pikit; and on August 3, 1951, Executive Order No. 462 created M'lang.

On June 18, 1966, under Republic Act No. 4849, South Cotabato was created into a separate province from the old Cotabato. Later, on November 22, 1973, under Presidential Decree No. 341, the provinces of North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat were created out of the remaining old Cotabato. North Cotabato is composed of 14 municipalities, with Kidapawan as the capital.

Two of the natural attractions in the province are the Rio Grande de Mindanao, the second largest river in the Philippines, and the Lanzones Forest at Kidapawan.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF COTABATO

The Province of Cotabato was created under R.A. 4849 on July 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Cotabato

*Stone Fort*  
(*Kota Wato*)

— fortress built by the Maguindanaos at the Celina Hill (now PC Hill).

*Kampilan and Kris*

— symbolizing leadership and bravery, both are bladed weapons which the natives used in warding off all foreign invaders.

*Two Stars*

— represent the two islands of Mindanao and Sulu (Cotabato was once a capital of these two islands).

*Half-Moon*

— the Moon, representing one supreme power—light— for the two regions.



MILLION FLOWERS  
(Milflores Hydrangea Macrophylla)  
*Provincial Flower*

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO

THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, in the southern portion of Mindanao, is bounded on the north by North Cotabato, on the south and west by the Celebes Sea, and on the east by Davao del Sur.

The province has a land area of 7,468.8 square kilometers and a population of 466,110 in 1970. It has a very fertile and highly productive soil planted with corn, rice, banana, pineapple and coconut. At Palomolok, and around the base of Mount Matutum, are vast pineapple plantations while in the mountains are the finest and hardest timber.

South Cotabato was visited by the Spaniards early in the 16th century. In 1525, an expedition from Spain led by Garcia Jofre de Loaisa anchored at Pollok, in the Illana Bay, and remained in Cotabato for about ten days.

It was however late in the century that the first attempts were launched to conquer the Mindanao Muslims. Rodriguez de Figueroa led an expedition and succeeded in occupying the town of Tampacan in 1596. Hardly had they settled when the brave chieftains, Malaria, Silongan and Buhisan attacked the invaders, killing Figueroa and forcing his men to abandon the place.

In 1639, General Pedro de Almonte led another expedition to the Cotabato territory. They were able to establish a small *presidio* at Bunayen. Like the former explorer, Almonte was forced to withdraw.

It took two more centuries before another expedition in June 1851 was launched against the Maguindanaos. The Spaniards occupied Pollok which was later converted into a naval base. Three years later, the district was elevated to a politico-military status, under the jurisdiction of Zamboanga.

By 1861, three campaigns were launched simultaneously against the natives. The first, led by General Juan de Salcedo, "*Comandante politico-militar*" of Mindanao, sailed up the Cotabato River and reached as far as South Cotabato; the

second, conducted by Enrique Carillo, politico-military governor of Davao (with an objective to acquire Lake Buluan region), reached Mailad where a fort was built; the third, led by Captain Castro Mendez Nuñez, sailed via the Cotabato River, and succeeded in occupying Pagalungan. As a result of this three-pronged offensive, the Spanish authority was finally recognized by the natives of the region.

The next year, a military base was established at Tamontaka, followed by the occupation of the interior towns and the establishment of military posts. By the end of Spanish rule, the old Cotabato province (then the fifth district of Mindanao) was composed of the politico-military *comandancia* of Pollok and the military district of Malabang, Reina Regente, Taceran, Babia, Illana, Baras and Libac.

In 1899, the Spaniards evacuated the province. A local government under Ramon Vilo was established and a rival Muslim government was also organized under Datu Ugalingan Piang.

When the Moro Province was created under the American government, Cotabato became one of its districts in 1903. Five years later, in 1908, Cotabato became an independent province.

During the Commonwealth period, President Manuel L. Quezon established a settlement project under General Paulino Santos at Dadiangas, later called Buayan, and finally General Santos City.

In 1944, the allied forces landed at the Sarangani Bay from where sorties were launched against the Japanese Imperial Forces in Central Mindanao.

Under Republic Act No. 4849, approved on June 18, 1966, the old Cotabato Province was divided into two provinces, North and South Cotabato. The South consists of the municipalities of Banga, Glan, Kiamba, Koronadal, Maasim, Maitum, Malapatan, Norala, Polomolok, Surallah, Tantangan, Tupi and General Santos City, the provincial capital.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*



**WALING-WALING**  
*Provincial Flower*

## PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO

The Province of South Cotabato was created under R.A. 4849 on July 18, 1966.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of South Cotabato

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Mountain Matutum</i>             | — Mt. Matutum, the majestic landmark of the province.                            |
| <i>Factory Building</i>             | — represents the industrial potential of South Cotabato.                         |
| <i>Products</i>                     | — rice, corn, pineapple, coconut and banana, principal products of the province. |
| <i>Plow</i>                         | — an indispensable implement of the Filipino farmer.                             |
| <i>Rice Stacks</i>                  | — represent rice as the principal produce of the individual farmer.              |
| <i>Cattle</i>                       | — represents the vast pasture and grazing lands of South Cotabato.               |
| <i>Shield-Shape of Coat of Arms</i> | — shape of the official seal of the Republic of the Philippines.                 |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO

DAVAO is one of the biggest and richest provinces in the Philippines. It lies in the southeastern part of Mindanao, bounded on the north by the Agusan Valley, on the west by Bukidnon, on the south by Davao del Sur, and on the east by Davao Oriental.

It has a land area of 8,129.8 square kilometers and a population of 442,543 in 1970. Some of the indigenous tribes of the province are the Calagones, Tagacaoles, Aetas, Samalese, Bagobos and Mandayas.

Although it is one of the southernmost regions of the Archipelago, Nueva Guipuzcoa (now Davao Province) was also one of the earliest provinces explored by the Spanish *conquistadores* in the Philippines. As early as 1528, seven years after the arrival of Magellan, Alvaro de Saavedra visited the island of Sarangani on his way to the Moluccas. Several years later, in 1543, the province was again visited by a Spanish expedition headed by Ruy Lopez de Villalobos. This expedition reached several towns along the eastern coast.

In 1844, however, Governor Figueroa of Zamboanga and Agustin Bocalla, a Brigadier General in the Spanish Army, obtained from the Sultan of Mindanao the cession of this vast region to the Spanish government.

Immediately after the cession of Davao, Jose Oyanguren, a native of Vergara of the province of Nueva Guipuzcoa, Spain, visited the place. He was so impressed with the region so that on his return to Manila, he sought permission to lead an expedition. Governor Narciso Claveria granted the request after Oyanguren proposed to bring the region under Spanish sovereignty and to expel or pacify the Muslims. The first settlement visited by the expedition in 1847 was the village of Davao.

Two years later, the neighboring regions, including the strip of land from the then province of Caraga (now Surigao), were organized into a new province named Nueva Guipuzcoa, in honor of Oyanguren's home province. Davao town which became the provincial capital, was renamed Vergara, also in honor of Oyanguren's hometown. Oyanguren was the first governor of this province which originally included the region bordering the Gulf of Davao.

After its creation, in 1858, the province of Nueva Guipuz-

coa was abolished and two politico-military *comandancias*,—Bislig and Davao—were created. Bislig was incorporated two years later into the District of Davao, one of the six districts into which Mindanao was divided in 1860. At the end of the Spanish rule, Davao was still a district with an army major at the head of its government. Within its jurisdiction were the politico-military *comandancias* of Mati and Clan. Each *comandancia* was under a captain of the Spanish army.

Eventually, during the Philippine Revolution, the Spanish government collapsed and it was replaced by a short-lived revolutionary government. A few years later, the Americans came.

Because of the fertile soil and fine climate, agriculture has been encouraged in Davao. Large abaca plantations have been cleared on the plains around Davao Gulf and thousands of coconut trees have been planted along the shores.

Before the war, much of the land in the province were owned by Japanese individuals or Japanese corporations. Only a few Christian Filipinos from the Visayas and Luzon and a few Muslims owned farms in Davao.

The province is exceedingly mountainous, with dense forests that yield excellent hardwoods for construction purposes. One of its peaks, Mount Apo, is the highest mountain in the Philippines.

Davao is also known for its rich natural resources. Coal is found near the Mayo River, and sulphur, almost in a pure state, covers the top of Mt. Apo. Pearls and fishes likewise abound off the coasts of the province.

On May 8, 1967, with the approval of Republic Act No. 4867, Congress divided Davao into three provinces, namely; Davao del Norte with Tagum as the capital; Davao del Sur with Digos as the capital; and Davao Oriental with Mati as the capital.

The Province of Davao del Norte comprises the municipalities of Babak, Samal, Tagum, Sto. Tomas, Asuncion, Kapalong, Panabo, Nabunturan, Monkayo, Mawab, Mabini, Compostela and Pantukan. A month later, on June 17, 1972, Congress also approved Republic Act No. 6430, changing the official name of the Province of Davao del Norte to the Province of Davao.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF DAVAO

The Province of Davao was created under R.A. 4867 on May 8, 1967.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Davao

*Star*

— represents the North Davao being in the northern portion.

*Nineteen Rays of  
The Star*

— represents the nineteen (19) municipalities of the province.

*Coconut, Lumber  
and Corn*

— three major crops of Davao.

*Vinta*

— sailboat **Vinta** is symbolic of the Mindanao Region.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL

DAVAO ORIENTAL lies on the southeastern section of Mindanao. Its boundaries are the Pacific Ocean on the east, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur on the north, Davao del Norte on the west, and the Davao Gulf and the Celebes Sea on the south.

Davao Oriental consists of the Municipalities of Banaybanay, Banganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Governor Generoso, Lupon, Manay, Mati, San Isidro and Tarragona; all are situated along the coastline. Mati, the capital town, is the seat of the provincial government.

In 1970, the population of the province was 247,995. It has an estimated land area of 543,808 hectares.

Of the ten dialects that the inhabitants speak, Cebuano is predominant, although the province is mostly populated by Davaoeños. The Calagones inhabit the southeastern slopes of Mount Apo, including the lower portion which extends toward the headwaters of Digos River. The Tagacaos settled on the west coast of the gulf, from the coastal plains toward Malaen and the Peninsula of San Agustin; the Aetas lived along the Libaganon River which empties into the gulf; and the Samalese on the island of Samal and Talikud. The better-known of these tribes are the Bagobos and the Mandayas.

This rich area was originally controlled by the Mindanao Sultanate who, as overlord, exacted tributes from its subjects. In 1844, the region was ceded to Spain through then Zamboanga Governor Figueroa and Brigadier General Agustin Bocalla. After the cession, Jose Oyanguren visited the place and found that it was rich in natural resources. Upon his return to Manila, Oyanguren convinced Governor Narciso Claveria to send an expedition, which left in 1847, with Oyanguren himself as its leader.

Two years later, he organized the region into what is now Davao. The place, however, had not been entirely unknown to the Spaniards. As early as 1528, Alvaro de Saavedra, on his

expedition to the East, passed through Davao and stopped for a while in the gulf; Villalobos followed him in 1543.

From the time Oyanguren founded the province, many Christian Filipinos moved into Davao—building new homes, cultivating the fertile plains, and harnessing its resources to meet their needs. Later, as the Christians increased, the tribes which inhabited the area slowly retreated uphill; many were converted into Christianity when the missionaries came. By 1918, a little less than half of the inhabitants of Davao were already Christians.

Between 1930 and 1939, many Japanese settled in Davao Oriental and developed the agricultural products and scientifically exploited the fishing grounds. The Visayan settlers also saw the promise of the land and as a consequence, its population further increased. From 1945, the economic growth of Davao Oriental was noted with the increase of abaca plantations.

Logging is another major dollar-earning industry in Mati. With 18,760 hectares of commercial forest, Mati, a leading log exporter in Southern Mindanao, is considered as one of the richest in timber resources in the Davao-Cotabato region.

The “dulian” or “durian” also abounds in Davao. Its fruits are usually used in the manufacture of candy or sweets.

Davao Oriental is one of the three provinces (the others are Davao del Norte and Davao del Sur) created on May 8, 1967 under Republic Act No. 4867. Prior to the approval of the law, the former province of Davao was considered the second largest province in the Philippines.

By virtue of a presidential directive in 1967, Davao Oriental became the first province in the Visayas and Mindanao to conduct a police in-service training program.

The principal tourist spots in the province, besides Mt. Apo, are the Mayo River and the beautiful beaches of Dahican and Briton in Mati.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL

The Province of Davao Oriental was created under R.A. 4867 on May 8, 1967.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Davao Oriental



DAISY FLOWER  
*Provincial Flower*

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Citadel-Shape of Heraldry</i>  | — reminiscent of the Spanish times.   |
| <i>Colors Red, White and Blue</i> | — symbolic of the supremacy of the Republic.  |
| <i>Azure Blue</i>                 | — represents the Philippine skies, the sphere of liberty and freedom.   |
| <i>Green Background</i>           | — signifies the fertility of the soil of the province.  |
| <i>Rippling Waves</i>             | — symbolic of the three great bodies of water lacing its shores, the Pacific Ocean, Davao Gulf and Celebes Sea. |
| <i>Fish at Center</i>             | — tuna fish, symbolic of the rich sea resources of the province.  |

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR

DAVAO DEL SUR is one of the three provinces which originally comprised the vast Province of Davao. Under Republic Act No. 4867, approved on May 8, 1967, Davao was divided into Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental. Situated in the southeastern portion of Mindanao, the new province is bounded by Davao del Norte on the north, Cotabato and South Cotabato on the west, the Davao Gulf on the east, and the Celebes Sea on the south.

Like its sister provinces, Davao del Sur is traversed by mountain ranges, but its land features are generally smooth in appearance. Of the mountain ranges in the province, the highest and largest is Mount Apo in the western border, separating the region from the Cotabato provinces. It is the highest mountain in the entire country. Wide valleys are found between these mountain ranges. The Davao River and its tributaries, which for centuries have deposited silt on the plains, empty into the Davao Gulf.

In 1970, the province had a land area of 6,377.6 square kilometers with a total population of 785,398.

Davao has an ideal climate and its rainfall is abundant. Typhoons seldom visit this verdant land where corn, rice, coconut, abaca, coffee and other farm products yield bountiful harvests. The *durian* also abounds in Davao.

The province is the home of various tribes of the Philippines, such as the Bagobos, Calagones, Tagacaoles, Mandayas, Samalese and Aetas. Some of these tribes have resettled in the hinterlands when the Christian settlers establish themselves in this province. Because of the rich resources of the land, the Tagalogs, Pampangos, Visayans, Ilocanos and Japanese contributed much to the ever-increasing economy of Davao.

As early as 1528, Alvaro de Saavedra, on his expedition to the East, passed through Davao and stopped for a while in the Sarangani Island; Villalobos followed him in 1543.

By 1830, the Muslims had already established a trading post in Sigahoy in Cape San Agustin where the Spaniards traded with them.

In 1847, Datu Bago, ruler of Sigahoy, detained Antonio Azaola for ransom and killed him after the Spaniards failed to meet their conditions. Equipped with superior arms under

the command of Jose Oyanguren, the Spaniards stormed and smashed Sigahoy, after a bitterly fought encounter. Datu Bago abandoned the fort, and its "Lantakas," and only a few men were left to surrender.

Consistent with the policy of conquest, *Comandante* Oyanguren immediately began building a nucleus of what was to become a big city. With 800 people, he built Davao and named it "Nueva Vergara." When the surrounding area was conquered, the province was called "Nueva Guipuzcoa," a name given after Oyanguren's Iberian home province of Guipuzcoa in Spain.

In 1858, Davao, as it was called later, was made as a political *comandancia* with Bislig. Two years later, in 1860, it became a part of the Sixth District created for the island of Mindanao. In 1884, Governor Figueroa and *Comandante* Agustin Bucalla got concessions at Tagum from the Sultanate of Sulu; thus increasing their commercial relations with the Muslims in Davao.

On June 1, 1903, Act No. 787, created the Moro Province which incorporated Davao as one of its districts in 1905. The province was later abolished and the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, with office in Zamboanga, took over the jurisdiction of the region. By virtue of Act No. 2408, dated July 23, 1914, a provisional government was established for the territory under the Department. Davao was made a special province, with the town of Davao as its capital. Under Act No. 2878, in 1920, the Department was also abolished and the Bureau of Non Christian Tribes gained control of Davao. Finally, in 1922, a civil government was established in the province and the residents were granted the right to elect their own officials.

From 1920 to 1939, the Japanese were granted concessions for the agricultural development of the province. Extensive coconut and abaca plantations were opened. Thus, before the outbreak of World War II, there were many Japanese in Davao. In 1941, after bombarding Davao City, the Japanese forces landed in Digos. The Imperial Army of Japan easily occupied Davao after brief skirmishes at Digos and the few strategic coastal areas.

In 1944 and 1945, the war activities in Davao left the countryside in ruins. However, the province slowly recovered such that from 1950 to 1969, Davao once more became one of the richest provinces in Mindanao







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR

The Province of Davao del Sur was created under R.A. 4867 on May 8, 1967.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Davao del Sur

*Year 1907*

— the year of the province' birth.

*Shield Shape*

— represents the region of Mindanao where the province is located.

*Thirteen Stars*

— represents its thirteen (13) municipalities.

*Mountain Peaks*

— the triple peak of Mt. Apo.

*Moslem House*

— represents the summer capital at the foot of the mountain.

*Flat land*

— symbol of the wide plains.

*Cattle Head*

— signifies that cattle is raised among rice, coconut, corn and fishing communities of the province.

*Corn, Fish Coconut,  
Rice and boat*

— symbols of the main sources of livelihood of the province.

*Canned Goods*

— represents the prospects of canning industry in Davao del Sur.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO

MAGUINDANAO is bounded on the north by Lanao del Sur, on the east by North Cotabato, on the south by Sultan Kudarat, and on the west by the Illana Bay.

The name "Maguindanao" formerly referred to the old Cotabato province which occupied the entire southwestern portion of Mindanao. Islam was introduced in the area by Sharif Mohammed Kabungsuwan at the end of the 15th century.

In 1596, the Spanish forces led by Esteban Rodriguez de Figueroa and Pedro de Almonte attacked the Muslims of Mindanao. The attempt of the Spaniards to subdue them aroused the ire of the Maguindanaos. This resulted in the occasional raids of towns and Spanish mission sites in Luzon and the Visayas. The Maguindanao Muslims were never actually conquered by the Spaniards up to the middle of the 19th century.

Towards the end of the Spanish rules, Cotabato was one of the provinces of the fifth district of Mindanao.

The Spaniards completely evacuated the area at the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution against Spain.

With the establishment of the American colonial government in the Philippines, Cotabato became one of the districts

of the Moro Province established in 1903. In 1914, Cotabato was one of the provinces of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu.

During the second World War, the Mindanao Guerilla Force was organized into four divisions under the command of Colonel Wendell W. Fertig.

Since the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines in 1946, the life of the Maguindanao Muslims who compose the majority of the population of Maguindanao has been characterized by an intense degree of Islamic consciousness.

Maguindanao was made a regular province by Presidential Decree No. 341 on November 22, 1973.

As an agricultural province, it has been granted financial aid in agricultural development. The educational uplift of the inhabitants is being undertaken by the government and some Protestant educational institutions, like the Southern Christian Service Foundation. And, with the establishment of the Mindanao Development Authority, it is hoped that Maguindanao will be transformed from a peasant agricultural economy to an agro-industrial one.







*Provincial Seal*



EVERLASTING  
*Provincial Flower*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO

The Province of Maguindanao was created under Presidential Decree 356 on November 22, 1973.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Maguindanao

*Figure of Man*

— the man wearing turban symbolizes royalty. His barefootedness signifies his deep-rooted conservative nature.

*Plow Carried by the Man*

— signifies that Maguindanao is basically an agricultural province and that its people depends upon agriculture as their main source of livelihood.

*Kriss, Spear and Shield*

— signify bravery and patriotic nature of the Maguindanaons to any foreign intruders that threaten to disturb their peace and tranquility.

*Mountain*

— mountain at the background with flowing spring signifies the natural potential of the province for development.

## HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT

SULTAN KUDARAT is bounded on the north by North Cotabato and Maguindanao, on the east by Davao del Sur, on the south by South Cotabato, and on the west by the Moro Gulf.

Although the province is out of the path of strong typhoons and destructive floods, the rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year. The main crops are rice, corn, coconut, abaca, sugar cane, ramie, coffee, cabbage, potato, cotton, citrus, avocado and durian. Different kinds of orchids, especially the waling-waling, are found in its forests.

Kudarat was formerly a part of the old province of Cotabato. During the Spanish period, it was heavily forested and undeveloped. Not until the American colonization period did the Visayan settlers come in droves to live in the province, especially in the town of Isulan and the barrios of Tacurong and Lebak.

In 1940, ramie, an important Chinese weed (very much stronger than cotton and better in quality than silk and flax), became an agricultural product of Kudarat, especially in Tacurong. It was then in great demand. However, the second World War brought an end to the economic boom of the province.

During the Japanese occupation, the guerrilla forces commanded by Salipada Pendatun, under Wendell W. Fertig of the 117th Infantry, 10th Military District, United States Forces in

the Philippines (USAFIP), also operated in the province.

Some of the municipalities of the province earlier created were Lebak (formerly of Kiamba, South Cotabato), by virtue of Executive Order No. 195, dated December 31, 1948; Tacurong (a barrio of Buluan), under E. O. No. 462, dated August 3, 1951; Columbio (from Buluan, Maguindanao), through E.O. No. 439, dated August 6, 1961; Kalamansing (from Lebak and Palimbang), by E.O. No. 459 on December 29, 1961; Lutayan (from Buluan, Maguindanao), by virtue of Republic Act No. 4868, passed on May 8, 1967; and Bagumbayan (from Isulan) under R.A. No. 5960, re-created on June 21, 1969.

After the creation of South Cotabato from the old province of Cotabato, the many conflicting political, social and economic interests had still limited the development and progress of the old province. Hence, the need to divide Cotabato for effective administration and development.

By virtue of Presidential Decree No. 341, dated November 22, 1973, the remaining territory of Cotabato was divided into three provinces—North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat.

Sultan Kudarat, named after the great ruler of Mindanao and Sulu in the 17th century, is composed of 11 municipalities with Isulan as the capital.







*Provincial Seal*



*Provincial Flag*

## PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT

The Province of Sultan Kudarat was created under Presidential Decree 341 on November 22, 1973.

### Meaning of the Official Seal of Sultan Kudarat

#### *Handclasp*

— portrays the unity of the Muslims and Christians as they work hand-in-hand for the progress and development of the province.

#### *Palm Tree*

— the African palm oil tree, leading product of the province and a promising dollar-earner of the country.

#### *Sorghum Plants*

— another major product of Sultan Kudarat.



**WALING-WALING**  
*Provincial Flower*

## THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL FLAG

### Provision in the New Constitution

Article V, Section: "It should be the duty of the citizen to be loyal to the Republic and honor the Philippine Flag, to defend the State and contribute to its development and welfare, to uphold the Constitution and obey the laws, and to co-operate with the duly constituted authorities in the attainment and preservation of a just and orderly society."

### Reverence for the Flag

The flag should be displayed in all public office buildings, official residences, public squares and institution of learning every day of the year.

It should be raised at sunrise and lowered at sundown.

### Important Rules

- When flown from a flagpole, the flag should have its blue stripe on top in time of peace and the red on top in time of war.

When not flown from a flagpole or staff, the flag should be displayed either vertically or horizontally.

- When displayed vertically, the triangle should be on top. The blue field

should be to the right (left of the observer) in time of peace, and the red field to the right (left of the observer) in time of war.

- When displayed horizontally, the blue stripe should be on top and the triangle at the left of the observer. In time of war, the red stripe should be on top.

- When the flag is flown half-mast to symbolize mourning, it must be first raised to full mast, allowing it to fly there for a moment before bringing it down to half-mast. To lower the flag at sunset or at any other time when ordered, it must again be raised to full mast before it is brought down.

### Flag Ceremonies

- All members of the Armed Forces and those belonging to semi-military and police organizations in uniform should adopt the military salute provided in their regulations.

- Civilians if outdoors should stand at attention, and if wearing hats should uncover and held the hats over their hearts. Complete silence should be observed and no person should be allowed to walk while the ceremony is going on.

- The flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset, or at such times as may be designated by the proper author-

ities. It should be displayed on national holidays and on historical and special occasions.

- When the national flag is borne in a parade with those of foreign nations, it should always be in front of the center of the line of the other flags.

When the flag is displayed on a small staff as in a parade, mourning is indicated by attaching two small streamers of black crepe to the spearhead, allowing the streamers to fall naturally. Crepe streamers may thus be used by order of the President of the Philippines.

- When a number of flags are grouped and displayed from staffs, the Philippine flag should be in the center at the highest point.

- When used to cover a casket, the triangle should be over the head and the blue stripe over the right side of the body. The flag should not touch the ground. The casket should be carried foot first.

When flown with flags or pennants of organizations on the same hallyard (rope), the Philippine flag should always be at the peak.

- When mounted on a platform, the flag should be placed on the presiding officer's right and a bit in front, as he faces the congregation. Other flags should be on his left.

- When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the

Philippine flag should be on its own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag. Two Philippine flags should never be thus displayed.

- When used on a speaker's platform without the staff, it should be displayed horizontally and placed above and behind the speaker. It should never be used to cover the speaker's desk or to drape over the front of the platform.

- The flag should be flown from a staff when displayed on a float.

- The flag should not be embroidered on clothes, or on any piece of cloth. It should not be used as a part of a costume.

- The flag should not be used as unveiling material in unveiling ceremonies.

- The flag should not be displayed in cockpits, dance halls and centers of vice.

- Discard all old and tattered flags. Worn-out flags should be destroyed privately, preferably by burning.

- When displayed over the middle of a street, as between buildings, the flag should be suspended vertically with the blue stripe to the north in an east-and-west street, or the east in a north-and-south street.

- The flag should not be used for decorations. Use buntings. In using the colors of the flags, the blue color in the bunting should be at the top. The correct order of the colors is blue-white-red.



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- Belen Bautista — *Provinces of Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Eastern Samar, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Leyte, Northern Samar, Palawan, Western Samar, South Cotabato, Southern Leyte and Zamboanga del Norte*  
— *Subprovince of Aurora*
- Genaro Dahiroc — *Provinces of Ifugao, Quezon and Zambales*
- Araceli Iturralde — *Cities of Oroquieta, Ozamis, Pagadian, Palayan, Pasay, Puerto Princesa, Quezon, Roxas, San Carlos (Negros Occidental) and San Carlos (Pangasinan)*
- Eulogio Leño — *Provinces of Basilan, Isabela, Laguna, Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya*  
— *Cities of Angeles, Bago, Bais, Basilan, Butuan, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro and Manila*
- Zenaida Tan — *Provinces of Mountain Province and Occidental Mindoro*  
— *Cities of San Jose, San Pablo, Silay, Surigao, Tacloban, Tagaytay, Tagbilaran, Tangub, Toledo, Trce Martires and Zamboanga*  
— *Malacañang Palace*
- Emelita Verano — *Cities of Bacolod, Baguio, Cadiz, Calbayog, Caloocan, Cebu, and Danao*  
— *Subprovince of Biliran*

Writers and Researchers

MANUSCRIPTS

- Lucinda Mercado — *Provinces of Marinduque, Masbate, Misamis Oriental and Oriental Mindoro*  
— *Cities of Cotabato, Dapitan, Davao, Dipolog, Dumaguete, General Santos, Gingoog, Iligan, Iloilo, Iriga and La Carlota*  
— *Baro and Saya*
- Emiterio Moreno — *Provinces of Camiguin, Iloilo, La Union, Misamis Occidental, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Pampanga, Romblon, Siquijor, Sulu, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Tarlac, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga del Sur*  
— *Cities of Batangas, Canlaon and Cavite*  
— *Subprovince of Guimaras*
- Leandro Perez — *Provinces of Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cagayan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Catanduanes, Cavite, Cebu, North Cotabato, Rizal and Sultan Kudarat*  
— *Barong Pilipino*
- Myrna Plagata — *Province of Quirino*  
— *Cities of Laoag, Lapu-Lapu, Legazpi, Lipa, Lucena, Mandanae, Marawi, Naga, Olongapo and Ormoc*
- Alicia Sison — *Provinces of Abra, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Aklan, Albay, Antique, Bataan, Batanes, Batangas, Benquet, Bohol, Kalinga-Apayao, Maguindanao and Pangasinan*  
— *City of Dagupan*  
— *Philippines*